



# HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH REPORTERS' GUIDE

TO COVERING THE BEIJING OLYMPICS

## CHINA 2008 OLYMPIC SITES

The XXIXth Olympic Summer Games will take place August 8-24, 2008. The Beijing Paralympic Summer Games will be held September 6-17, 2008. There are seven major venue sites across China: Beijing, Hong Kong, Qingdao,

Qinhuangdao, Shanghai, Shenyang, and Tianjin. Equestrian events will be held in Hong Kong and sailing events in Qingdao. Qinhuangdao, Shanghai, Shenyang, and Tianjin will host the soccer preliminaries.



# QUICK REFERENCE

## 6 INTRODUCTION

### 8 RISKS AND RIGHTS (I)

- 8 RISKS: What you need to know
- 14 RIGHTS
- 14 Rights in theory
- 15 Rights in practice

### 16 OUTSIDE THE ARENA: HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES (II)

- 18 Human rights reporting topics
- 22 Defining the crimes: legal tools for silencing critics
- 23 Jailed Olympic critics

### 24 SECURITY, SURVEILLANCE, AND SAFETY (III)

- 24 Reporting on public gatherings and demonstrations
- 24 If police intervene
- 25 The PSB, the PAP, and the PLA
- 26 Safety tips

### 29 PROTECTING YOUR CHINESE CONTACTS (IV)

- 29 Shielding your Chinese sources, news assistants, and translators
- 30 “What not to do,” a first-person account
- 31 Using Chinese-language media resources
- 31 How to help protect your Chinese staff

### 32 THE GREAT FIREWALL: INTERNET CENSORSHIP IN CHINA (V)

- 32 Chinese censors and cybercops
- 33 New blogging rules
- 34 Useful technologies for cracking the great firewall
- 36 Internet censorship in China: the case of Shi Tao
- 36 Secure Communications

### 38 PRACTICAL INFORMATION (VI)

- 38 Vital numbers and websites
- 40 Temporary rules and regulations for foreign journalists
- 40 A. Temporary rules and regulations (English / Chinese)
- 42 B. Implementation of the temporary rules and regulations (English / Chinese)

# INTRODUCTION

**“We will give the media complete freedom to report when they come to China.”**

*Wang Wei, a vice president of the Beijing organizing committee, at a press conference on July 12, 2001, the day before the International Olympic Committee named the city as host.*

If you are one of the estimated 25,000 journalists planning to travel to China to cover the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, this guide is for you. It provides essential background information and concrete suggestions for how to address many of the challenges you can face as a working journalist in China. The guide also highlights Olympics-specific and broader human rights concerns that likely will be important stories during your stay.

Even though you will be in China to cover the Olympics—the ultimate choreographed event—the Chinese government’s penchant for control makes even ostensibly safe environments unpredictable. Full media freedom for visiting international journalists was a pillar of Beijing’s Olympic bid, but well before the Games launch, this pledge has already been violated.

Sports journalists who may be unaccustomed to government monitoring should know that even the most basic reporting activities may be of interest to the Chinese government. Chinese officials do not distinguish sports journalists from editorial writers or foreign correspondents and your judgment of what constitutes a story won’t be theirs. You will want to plan and act accordingly.

This guide spells out your rights as a visiting journalist in China—but also the risks you face, and the risks your Chinese contacts will face once the Beijing Games are over and you are back home. You will find here practical information on a range of subjects, from what documents to carry with you to how to identify public security officials. You will find not only general safety tips but very specific suggestions on how to evade online censorship and what

to do if you are detained. You will also find a concise summary of human rights conditions in China and ideas for stories that will give your readers a glimpse of the real China behind the curtain of the Olympic extravaganza.

We are grateful for the assistance of the Committee to Protect Journalists in preparing this guide, which incorporates material from *Falling Short: As the 2008 Olympics Approach, China Falters on Press Freedom*, a special CPJ report first published in August 2007 and revised in June 2008. We also wish to thank Rebecca MacKinnon for her wise counsel on Internet censorship and secure communications.

We hope this guide—and the cautions it sets out—will be a useful companion on your reporting trip to China.

*Migrant workers at the construction site of Beijing’s new National Stadium, also known as “the Bird’s Nest,” where the opening ceremony of the Beijing Games will take place on August 8, 2008. The stadium was designed by the Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, in collaboration with the Swiss firm Herzog & de Meuron.*  
(c) 2007 Kadir van Lohuizen/NOOR



# RISKS AND RIGHTS (I)

## RISKS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO COVER THE BEIJING GAMES

A gang of toughs tackled Reuters' Beijing senior correspondent Chris Buckley as he was leaving an interview in the late afternoon of September 10, 2007. The men, who refused to identify themselves, but whom Buckley suspects were plainclothes police, kicked and punched him and confiscated his notes, camera, and tape recorder. Buckley had strayed into one of China's de facto forbidden zones—an illegal jail in the Beijing suburbs for "undesirables" from the rural countryside—and paid the price. The men detained Buckley for two hours, denied his requests to contact his employer and his embassy, and threatened him with further physical injury. Uniformed municipal police officers who later arrived on the scene facilitated Buckley's release, but ignored the goons who had effectively kidnapped him and covered his upper body with bruises and abrasions. His notes, tape, and film were returned to him upon his release.

Welcome to the uglier side of foreign journalism in China, 2008 Summer Olympics host.

If you are one of the estimated 25,000 foreign journalists headed on a reporting assignment to China this summer, Buckley's ordeal should serve as a reminder that this is no Athens, Sydney, or Atlanta, and that reporting in China has more than a few challenges. Beijing has become a sophisticated international city, but it is also the heart of a centralized, authoritarian political system that remains hostile to the concept of a free media. Reporters who try to cover issues beyond Olympics venues and expect the same reporting freedoms taken for granted in past host countries risk a rude awakening.

Despite—and in some ways because of—these obstacles, China remains a goldmine of critically important and exciting news stories which are well worth the effort of overcoming the government's obstacles to independent reporting. In March 2008, Steve Chao and Sean Chang of Canada's CTV News successfully evaded a dragnet of thousands of police and troops aimed to bar foreign media access to Tibetan communities in western China and returned to Beijing with unforgettable footage of dozens of Tibetan horsemen leading an attack on government offices in rural Gansu province. Those images, unmatched by CTV's competitors, have become some of the most vivid in the public memory of the March 2008 Tibetan protests.



Steve Chao and Sean Chang of CTV News successfully evaded police and troops aimed to bar foreign media access to Tibetan communities in western China. They returned to Beijing with some of the most vivid footage in public memory of the March 2008 Tibetan protests. (c) 2008 CTV News

## NEW REGULATIONS: PROMISES VERSUS REALITY

Despite rhetoric from the Chinese government and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) about Beijing's readiness to host the 2008 Olympic Games, the Chinese government is not living up to its promises to provide international standards of media freedom. In 2001, the Chinese government made media freedom a centerpiece of its bid for the 2008 Olympics. At that time, Wang Wei, secretary-general of the Beijing Olympic Games Bid Committee, promised international media "complete freedom to report when they come to China" for the 2008 Olympic Games. Numerous Chinese officials at all levels of government have since repeated these promises. And the Chinese government partly followed through on that pledge by rolling out temporary regulations on media freedom for foreign journalists that are in effect from January 2007 to October 2008.

The temporary rules in principle allow these reporters to talk to any consenting interviewee and travel anywhere they want in China, liberating them from longstanding regulatory handcuffs. But the Chinese government has failed to ensure the proper implementation of the rules. The result: foreign journalists continue to be routinely harassed, detained, and intimidated in the course of their work in China. Journalists' early praise for access to previously off-limits dissidents, brokered by the temporary rules, has waned as that access has steadily narrowed over the past year.

As David Barboza, Shanghai correspondent for *The New York Times* put it: "This is just the way the business is [in China]—if you go to some area where they are nervous about foreign journalists, you will be harassed and detained." Barboza would know. In June 2007, staff at a factory in Dongguan, Guangdong province, detained Barboza, his Chinese assistant, and a photographer for more than 10 hours while the team was working on a story about toxic lead paint discovered in the factory's US exports. Local police were unwilling or unable to help extricate the three men from illegal detention. Barboza eventually secured their release by writing a short statement explaining the reason for their visit to the factory and acknowledging he had not asked for permission to take photographs.

A team of four journalists with Germany's ARD TV was pelted with stones by plainclothes thugs on January 24, 2008, while attempting to meet with Yuan Weijing, wife of imprisoned human rights defender Chen Guangcheng. Foreign journalists tell Human Rights Watch that they are now routinely denied access to Zeng Jinyan, wife of imprisoned human rights activist Hu Jia, by plainclothes officers who seal the entrance to her apartment block with police tape whenever journalists approach.



The Chinese government dismisses protests from journalists about violations of the temporary regulations as inevitable bureaucratic glitches in a vast, politically decentralized country. Yet over the past year, Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials have directly engaged in intimidation by verbally warning numerous foreign journalists against reporting on officially “sensitive” topics such as discrimination against ethnic minorities. More disturbingly, the Foreign Ministry has declined Foreign Correspondents Club of China (FCCC) requests to investigate death threats made against more than 10 foreign journalists in the wake of rioting in Lhasa, Tibet, in mid-March. Three of those 10 had participated in a Foreign Ministry-organized visit to Lhasa at the end of March, and some of their personal and contact information was subsequently leaked onto domestic websites, prompting the threats against both the journalists and their families. The Foreign Ministry has informed the FCCC that such a probe—and by extension, the physical safety of foreign journalists—is not its responsibility.

The June-July issue of the *American Journalism Review* described the harassment faced by one bureau chief: “Early in April, after returning from a government-chaperoned reporting trip to the aftermath of demonstrations in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, Associated Press Beijing Bureau Chief Charles Hutzler started getting harassing calls on his mobile phone. For five or six days, 20 to 30 calls rolled in every hour (except during lunch and dinner and late at night), with a nearly equal number of text messages. Most passed on petty insults and patriotic curses; some threatened to kill him.”

## YOUR CHINESE SOURCES AND STAFF ARE PARTICULARLY AT RISK

The freedoms granted to foreign journalists in the new regulations do not extend to local sources and staff of foreign journalists, Chinese assistants, translators, “fixers,” and researchers. These persons are increasingly the target of intimidation by government officials, security forces, and plainclothes officials when foreign correspondents put up a fight over their reporting rights. The local source of a foreign journalist covering a story on pollution in western China in February was later hounded by police, who warned him that he would face charges of “subversion” if he spoke to foreign journalists again. Meanwhile, the assistant of a Beijing-based foreign correspondent who has extensively covered Chinese dissidents has come under the intensive scrutiny of two security agencies whose intimidation tactics have included harassment of the assistant’s parents and former school teachers.

*A team of four journalists with Germany’s ARD TV was pelted with stones by plain-clothes thugs on January 24, 2008, while attempting to meet with Yuan Weijing, wife of imprisoned human rights defender Chen Guangcheng. (c) 2008 ARD TV*



## FORBIDDEN ZONES

Confidence in the Chinese government’s commitment to its own Olympics-related temporary regulations on media freedom for foreign correspondents declined in March 2008, at the onset of the crackdown on unrest in Tibet and neighboring provinces. Four days after peaceful demonstrations turned violent on March 14 in Lhasa, the Chinese government had systematically sealed off Tibet and Tibetan areas of Gansu, Sichuan, Qinghai, and Yunnan provinces to foreign journalists. On those provinces’ major roads leading to Tibetan communities which had reportedly been the scene of protests and riots, police converted toll booths into roadblocks expressly designed to detain and then turn back foreign correspondents.

The Uighur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang, to the northwest of Tibet, is another sensitive zone where the freedom to report is severely curtailed. In a *New York Times* column dated May 29, 2008, Nicholas Kristof describes what happened when he recently flew to the oasis city of Kashgar in Xinjiang to investigate the Chinese government’s allegations that Muslim terrorists based in the region are planning to disrupt the Olympics: “I had been in Kashgar just a few hours when my videographer, who is ethnically

*A family of ethnic Uighurs walk past a concrete statue of Chairman Mao in Kashgar, Autonomous Region of Xinjiang.  
(c) 2000 Chris Stowers/Panos Pictures*



Chinese, called to say that two plainclothes officials were interrogating him. They asked him not to tell me since American journalists tend to be touchy about such things.”

Foreign journalists who look to the IOC to enforce Beijing's Olympics-related media freedom commitments will likely be disappointed. To date the IOC has ignored the scores of reported violations meticulously documented and published by the media as well as the Foreign Correspondents Club of China (FCCC), Human Rights Watch, the Committee to Protect Journalists, Reporters Without Borders, and other groups. Instead, Anthony Edgar, the IOC's head of media operations, said in Beijing in September 2007: “The Chinese government committed itself a long time ago to media working in China as freely as in other countries, in accordance with IOC and international practices, [and] I think they are working well at the moment.”

That is not the reality. Journalists coming to cover the Beijing Olympics in August should use this guide as a self-defense manual designed to help you protect yourself, your sources, and your local staff while covering the Olympics and wider social, economic, cultural, and political stories of interest—some of the most compelling stories in the world today.

*Police surround a Tibetan monk during a protest in front of a United Nations office in Kathmandu, Nepal on March 15, 2008.  
(c) 2008 Reuters*

*A military convoy drives along a mountain road on the outskirts of the city of Kangding, located around 400 kilometers (250 miles) west of Chengdu, in Sichuan province on March 19, 2008. (c) 2008 Reuters*

“The Chinese are not prepared for the kind of press freedom that happens at every Olympics and produces insult and bad feelings. Everything that gets written will be instantly fed back to the students and the Internet community in Beijing. I’m at least as worried about student protests over these perceived insults against China as I am about anything the state is going to do.”

— **John MacAloon**, an Olympic historian at the University of Chicago, quoted by the Associated Press on April 29, 2008, on the occasion of the 100-day countdown to the Beijing Games

## RIGHTS: YOUR RIGHTS ON PAPER

**China's Constitution and numerous international covenants guarantee freedom of the press and of speech:**

### CONSTITUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (1982)

- ★ **ARTICLE 35:** Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of procession, and of demonstration.

### UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (1948)

- ★ **ARTICLE 19:** Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

### INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS (ADOPTED IN 1966, ENTRY INTO FORCE IN 1976, SIGNED BY CHINA IN 1998)

- ★ **ARTICLE 19:**
  - (1) Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.
  - (2) Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice....

### TEMPORARY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

(1/1/07 – 10/17/08)

Media freedom is one of the baseline pledges all Olympic hosts must make to be awarded the Games. While bidding for the 2008 Games in 2001, top Chinese government officials repeatedly guaranteed "full freedom" for international journalists to report. Please see the Temporary Rules and Regulations for Foreign Journalists at the end of this guide.

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS: PLEDGES BY CHINESE OFFICIALS

*"We have no restrictions on travel for foreign journalists in China. So once they get the visa, they can travel anywhere in China."*

*Sun Weijia, BOCOG's head of media operations, quoted by Reuters, September 27, 2006*

*"There will be no restrictions on journalists in reporting on the Olympic Games."*

*Beijing Olympics organizers in their official bid to host the 2008 Games, filed on January 17, 2001.*

*"China will live up to its words and will turn its words into deeds ... The government will honor the promises and commitments made during our bid to host the Games."*

*Liu Qi, president of the Beijing organizing committee, at a press briefing on September 27, 2006.*

## ...VERSUS YOUR RIGHTS IN PRACTICE

Despite public guarantees and even important temporary improvements to China's press laws, reporters, news assistants, translators, and sources remain vulnerable to Chinese government surveillance, censorship, harassment, and detention. A vast network exists to monitor domestic and foreign media, and especially to track the internet. You should assume that in most public places you are being filmed on closed-circuit television, that your cell phone can send information about where you are, that your email and other communications may be monitored, and that your Chinese sources and those you quote in stories are at risk. Numerous examples can be found in the following two reports: *"You Will Be Harassed and Detained": Media Freedoms Under Assault in China Ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games* and *Falling Short: As the 2008 Olympics Approach, China Falters on Press Freedom*, published respectively by Human Rights Watch and the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Journalists should also be vigilant about materials they bring to China. As reported by *The New York Times* on June 3, the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games posted on its website (in Chinese only) a lengthy document consisting of 57 questions and answers relating to the conduct of foreign visitors. This advisory includes a ban on bringing into China "anything detrimental to China's politics, economy, culture or moral standards, including printed material, film negatives, photos, records, movies, tape recordings, videotapes, optical discs and other items."

If at any time during your stay in China you feel that your reporting rights are not being respected, we encourage you to immediately inform the International Olympic Committee, your own National Olympic Committee and the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG). Contact information is available at the end of this guide.



*China's animated "cybercops" warn web users to engage only in "harmonious browsing".*



## OUTSIDE THE ARENA: (II)

### REPORTING CHINA'S HUMAN RIGHTS STORIES

For the 2008 Beijing Games, some of the most important stories will be found outside of sporting venues. Reporting during any Olympics invariably includes coverage of the host country, its challenges, its policies, and the context in which the Games take place. Indeed, hope for positive international coverage is a key motivator for many countries that bid to host the Olympics. The large number of reporters from around the world expected in China presents a rare opportunity for a worldwide audience to better understand important changes taking place in Chinese society, and for Chinese people to interact with overseas reporters.

Human rights issues, not typically at the forefront of media attention during the Olympics, are likely to be more prominent during the Beijing Games than during previous Olympic Games. Human rights continue to be a big part of the story of China:

*Petitioners hold letters of complaint (xin-fang) in the so-called "Petitioners' Village" in Beijing's Fengtai district. The petitioning system, in theory, enables citizens across China to contest official decisions or air grievances over corruption.*  
(c) 2007 Kadir van Lohuizen/NOOR

**"The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of man, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity."**

- The Olympic Charter

its unprecedented combination of autocracy (no one is allowed to challenge the Communist Party's political monopoly) and unbridled capitalist growth, its struggle to contain labor and other social unrest amidst demographic and environmental upheaval, the growing urban-rural disparities that have accompanied explosive growth, and its increasingly prominent international role, including its much-criticized role in places like Burma, Darfur, and Zimbabwe. Even the staging of the Beijing Olympics itself has been accompanied by serious abuses, as described below.

Reporting human rights and other sensitive stories (including such topics as corruption or the environment) will not be easy, but it is an important responsibility, and we hope this Guide will help you to do your work in the most responsible way. Perhaps most important, not only is there an opportunity for the world to see a changing China through your pens, cameras, and video recorders, but Chinese people—long cut off from the world's media—may also benefit as your stories and findings echo back into China. China has a well-documented history of serious human rights abuses, including systemic political controls, widespread torture, censorship of the media and internet, controls on religious freedom, and repression of ethnic minorities in Tibet and Xinjiang. The government classifies the number of people executed as a state secret, but it is believed that China executes many more people than the rest of the world combined each year. Most trials are deeply flawed, as the accused often do not have access to adequate defense counsel, trials are usually closed to the public, evidence is often obtained through torture, and the appellate process lacks needed safeguards. China's courts lack independence, as they remain controlled by the government and ruling Chinese Communist Party.

The staging of the Olympics has significantly exacerbated preexisting problems of forced evictions, abuses of migrant laborers, and the use of house arrests to silence political opponents. Some migrant workers were swept out of the city. Others have never been paid for their work, and some have had their children thrown out of school. "Olympics dissidents" have been jailed or kept under tight surveillance. And the government is continuing its crackdown on lawyers, human rights defenders, and activists who dedicate themselves to rule of law and the exposure of rights abuses. Fear of citizen activism has led to government obstruction of local activists and grassroots organizations working to stem China's HIV/AIDS epidemic. Fears of harm to China's national image have even led Chinese officials to stop prominent activists from leaving the country. To win the right to host the Olympics, Beijing pledged in interviews and official bid documents to improve human rights in general terms and to guarantee press freedom specifically.



Above: Migrant workers wait for buses to transport them to construction sites. (c) 2007 Kadir van Lohuizen/NOOR.

Bottom right: Yang Wan Ying holds a photograph of his son, Yang Shi Liang, jailed for over a decade waiting for his death sentence to be carried out following a confession he claims was made under torture. (c) 2007 Ian Teh/Panos Pictures

**Key human rights reporting topics** and issues of major impact to the country that deserve attention in any serious portrait of China include:

★ **Ongoing crackdown in Tibet:** Largely eclipsed by the catastrophic earthquake in Sichuan province, the crackdown in Tibet continues. Since protests turned violent on March 14 in Tibet, the Chinese government has closed the region to reporters and international investigators; it remains unknown how many died or have been arrested. The Chinese government has organized two orchestrated tours for journalists and one for diplomats, launched “patriotic education” campaigns for Tibetans, and held fast to plans for the Olympic Torch to pass through Lhasa. Chinese lawyers who offered to defend Tibetan protestors have been threatened by the Ministry of Justice with the revocation of their licenses if they proceed.

★ **Systemic political controls:** China remains a one-party state that does not hold national elections. Independent political parties are outlawed, leaving the Communist Party with a monopoly on political power. The government's extensive police and state security apparatus continues to impose multiple layers of controls on political and civil society activists. A variety of vaguely defined crimes including “inciting subversion,” “leaking state secrets,” and “disrupting social order” provide the government with wide legal remit to stifle critics.

★ **Prisons, the death penalty, and executions:** The government does not publish figures for the death penalty, but the punishment is mandated for no fewer than 68 crimes. Though the exact number is a state secret, it is estimated that as many as 10,000 executions are carried out each year. Access to the courts and prisons is difficult to obtain.

★ **Controls on religious freedom:** Olympic visitors and reporters will see “Olympic Chapels” and spectators can visit approved houses of worship, but be aware that only five official religions are recognized (Buddhism, Daoism, Islam, Catholicism, and a version of Protestantism). Beijing does not recognize freedom of religion outside the state-controlled system. Unapproved so-called “house churches” are banned and some groups, such as the Falun Gong, are repressed and designated as “cults.”

★ **Repression of Uighurs:** China continues to use its “war on terrorism” to justify policies to eradicate the “three evil forces”—terrorism, separatism, and religious extremism—allegedly prevalent among Uighurs, a Turkic-speaking Muslim population in China’s Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. China has used the presence of militant Islamist groups in Xinjiang as a pretext for a broader crackdown. Freedom of expression is sharply curtailed and Uighurs who express “separatist” tendencies are routinely sentenced to quick, secret, and summary trials, sometimes accompanied by mass sentencing rallies.

★ **Jailing of critics and use of house arrest system:** Numerous human rights defenders and government critics have been harassed, detained, and subject to house arrest. Chinese lawyers, rural petitioners, and

civil society leaders who challenge the government to uphold its own human rights promises have been silenced and isolated by house arrest, and increasingly, jailed.

★ **Obstruction of HIV/AIDS rights advocacy:**

Measures to address China’s HIV/AIDS crisis are hampered as local officials and security forces continue to obstruct efforts by activists and grassroots organizations to contribute to prevention and education efforts and to organize care-giving.

★ **Support for abusive regimes:** While China has signaled that it wants to be seen as a “responsible power” and respected international actor, it has provided a crucial financial lifeline to regimes with poor human rights records. The Chinese government has backed the Burmese junta which continues to stifle any form of dissent, provided aid that kept Sudan financially viable through oil purchases and other forms of assistance, and shipped arms to the tinderbox of Zimbabwe. These policies undermine efforts by other international actors to use financial and political pressure to improve rights in these countries.

With relation to the actual staging of the Games, there are particular **human rights concerns directly tied to the Olympics** that have arisen or gotten worse:

★ **Jailing of Olympic critics:** Chinese citizens who have challenged the government to live up to the promises it made when it was awarded the Olympics have been specifically targeted (see brief profiles of Hu Jia and other human rights activists below). High-profile activists typically know the risks involved in criticizing the government and some seem to have decided that the Olympics spotlight would provide protection. They have largely been proven wrong and several have received jail terms for “subversion.” If today’s pattern holds, a pre-Olympic clampdown in the weeks and days before the Games is likely.



★ **Limitations on athletes' freedom of speech:** In May 2008, the IOC reminded national Olympic Committees that Article 51 of the Olympic Charter forbids athletes from engaging in any “kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda...in any Olympic sites, venues or other areas.” Imposing these rules not only puts the IOC in the unacceptable position of determining what constitutes “political” speech, but doing so in a country that already dramatically restricts those rights expressly contradicts the promise that the Games would improve the protection of these rights in China. How will Beijing and the International Olympic Committee enforce speech restrictions?

★ **Labor rights abuses:** The massive new sports venues that will host all Olympic events were constructed largely by thousands of migrant laborers compelled to do dangerous work without adequate safeguards. Human Rights Watch has documented that in some cases these workers were not paid at all.

★ **Forced evictions and school closures:** The construction of facilities for the 2008 Olympic Games has involved forced evictions of thousands of citizens in and around Beijing, often without adequate compensation or access to new housing. The pre-Olympic “clean-up” of Beijing has also resulted in the closure of unregistered schools for the children of migrant workers. Where have the migrant workers who built Olympic venues and those evicted to make way for the “new Beijing” been sent?

*A hutong resident contemplates debris from the demolition. Although development companies are required by law to pay the evictees compensation equal to the full market value of their properties, this requirement is often ignored.*  
(c) 2007 Kadir van Lohuizen/NOOR



## DEFINING THE CRIMES

Legal tools used to silence Chinese critics

Chinese journalists wishing to report on human rights violations in China face great risks. As the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China has noted: “Prosecuting individuals for national security violations, in particular subversion, is currently the most common method used by Chinese authorities for silencing those who, in spite of the legal, political, psychological, and technological barriers that authorities have erected to prevent Chinese citizens from expressing their opinions, nevertheless attempt to exercise their right to publish their political views.”

Chinese authorities rely in particular on two articles of China’s Criminal Code to detain and imprison journalists and activists on national security grounds: Article 105, concerning the subversion of state power, and Article 111, which deals with the divulgence of state secrets.

- ★ **Article 105(2)**, on instigating the “subversion of state power”: “Whoever instigates the subversion of the political power of the state and acts to overthrow the socialist system through spreading rumors, slandering, or other ways are to be sentenced to not more than five years of fixed-term imprisonment, criminal detention, control, or deprivation of political rights; the ringleaders and those whose crimes are grave are to be sentenced to not less than five years of fixed-term imprisonment.”
- ★ **Article 111**, on the divulgence of “state secrets or intelligence” to a foreign organization: “Whoever steals, secretly gathers, purchases, or illegally provides state secrets or intelligence for an organization, institution, or personnel outside the country is to be sentenced from not less than five years to not more than 10 years of fixed-term imprisonment; when circumstances are particularly serious, he is to be sentenced to not less than 10 years of fixed-term imprisonment, or life sentence; and when circumstances are relatively minor, he is to be sentenced to not more than five years of fixed-term imprisonment, criminal detention, control, or deprivation of political rights.”

Source: [www.com-law.net/findlaw/crime/criminallaw2.html](http://www.com-law.net/findlaw/crime/criminallaw2.html)



Zeng Jinyan and Hu Jia © 2008 CHRD

## JAILED OLYMPIC CRITICS

**Hu Jia** is a Beijing-based human rights activist who has openly challenged the Chinese government for its failure to honor its promise to promote human rights made when it bid to host the Olympic Games, notably in an open letter titled “The Real China and the Olympics,” cosigned with another activist on September 10, 2007. Detained on December 27, 2007, and formally arrested one month later, Hu was sentenced in April to three-and-a-half years in prison for “inciting subversion of state power.” His wife **Zeng Jinyan** and their baby daughter **Qianci** remain under house arrest in Beijing. Prior to his arrest, Hu was particularly involved with AIDS advocacy in China, in his capacity as executive director of the Beijing Aizhixing Institute of Health Education.

**Yang Chunlin**, a land rights activist sentenced to five years in prison on March 24, 2008, on charges of “inciting subversion of state power.” In 2007, Yang initiated a petition, ultimately signed by more than 10,000 people, titled “We Want Human Rights, Not the Olympics,” protesting illegal land seizures by officials. Yang’s trial on February 19 lasted less than a day and was marred by numerous procedural flaws.

**Ye Guozhu**, a housing rights activist serving a four-year prison sentence for seeking to organize protests against forced evictions ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. In 2003 he was forcibly evicted from his home in Beijing—like thousands of other residents of the capital—to make way for Olympic construction projects. Soon after seeking permission in August 2004 to hold a 10,000-person march for other evictees in September of that year, he was arrested on “suspicion of disturbing social order.” On December 18, 2004, Ye was sentenced to four years in prison.

Other cases of human rights activists in jail or under house arrest are described on this web page: [china.hrw.org/olympic\\_prisoners](http://china.hrw.org/olympic_prisoners)

# SECURITY, SURVEILLANCE, AND SAFETY (III)

**Journalists and visitors alike should have no expectation of privacy or private communications in China.**

**Hotel rooms, residences and offices are subject to access by the authorities, remote surveillance, and monitoring at any time. Your email, phone, and all other communications can always be monitored, and you should act accordingly.**

## REPORTING ON PUBLIC GATHERINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

Some of China's 1.3 billion people and visitors attending the Games from around the world may attempt to take the Chinese government at its word that human rights will be improved for the Olympics and try to hold public demonstrations. For Chinese citizens or foreigners wishing to demonstrate legally, the applicable regulations are contained in the 1989 Law on Assembly, Procession, and Demonstration (Demonstration Law) and the 1992 implementing regulations. Some of the provisions are ambiguous and subject to ad hoc interpretation. Article 4, for example, states: "In exercising their right to assembly, procession, and demonstration, citizens... shall not impair state, public, or collective interests or the lawful freedoms and rights of other citizens." Article 12 forbids any demonstration that would "seriously undermine public order." In addition, the law deliberately leaves enforcement and severity of punishment to the discretion of the police and the courts and makes no attempt to define an assembly, procession, or demonstration. Permission to demonstrate has been granted on occasion, for example, to Muslims seeking to denounce

books they deem offensive to Islam. However, requests to peacefully demonstrate against government policies are routinely denied. Demonstrations that are not specifically authorized are illegal. Officers of the Public Security Bureau (PSB), the official name for the police, can forcibly break up any assembly they deem illegal and detain those who refuse to disperse. The more sensitive the locale (such as Tiananmen Square) or the more publicity the incident is likely to generate, the greater the possibility of police intervention.

### IF POLICE INTERVENE

The Demonstration Law provides for a police presence at authorized rallies and demonstrations. Plainclothes officers also patrol such events, and videotaping of participants and onlookers for later identification is common. When PSB officials disapprove of an event, they usually try to ensure that it stays as local and generates as little publicity as possible. If only a few people are involved, the participants may suddenly find themselves surrounded by plainclothes officers and shielded from public view.

If you are a journalist observing such an event or incident, an officer may order you to leave, to wait, or to accompany him. Whether you follow directions is up to you and depends upon how far you are willing to push for the right to report on the demonstration. But do not shout, struggle, or offer physical resistance if police or security officers attempt to remove you from the scene. If you are taken away, try to bring a non-Chinese colleague and immediately notify, or have someone else notify, your consular authorities. If other foreign journalists observe the incident, it is even more likely that the PSB might confiscate film and tape.

## THE PSB, THE PAP, AND THE PLA

Surveillance is a fact of life in China. Among other things, it is used to prevent or inhibit unauthorized contacts between Chinese citizens and foreigners, and to keep track of foreign journalists. Journalists will be required to register with the PSB on arrival in China, in addition to going through the Olympics accreditation process. Plainclothes police officers with mobile phones overtly and covertly tail foreigners. They routinely patrol hotel lobbies, bars, and restaurants where foreigners and Chinese gather. Videotaping of participants and onlookers at public events is routine, and it is reasonable to assume that there will be covert and overt videotaping during the Olympics.

Three groups of officers are responsible for security: the Public Security Bureau (PSB), or police, which includes a special anti-riot detail; the paramilitary People's Armed Police (PAP); and the People's Liberation Army (PLA). You can distinguish the services by their uniforms: green-brown with stiff, high peaked hats for the PSB; green with red stripes down the sides of the trousers and insignia-bearing hats for the PAP. Unless there is a major upheaval, you are unlikely to encounter People's Liberation Army personnel. The main colors of PLA uniforms are respectively pine green for the Army, dark blue for the Navy and blue-gray for the Air Force. Open-necked shirts are worn in the summer. PLA hats feature a red star and the Chinese characters (ba yi, or 8 1), in reference to the PLA's founding date, August 1, 1927.

As a journalist, you are most likely to come into direct contact with plainclothes Public Security Bureau officers. Uniformed PSB officers usually arrive only if there is a need for backup. It may not be immediately apparent who plainclothes officers are. They might not show you any identification; nor will a uniformed officer identify them for you. If an officer requests that you move on and you do not, the officer could use force to compel you. Should the officer ask you to go with him, and you decide to comply, be sure that a non-Chinese friend or colleague accompanies you. That person should first observe what is happening, and then go for help. Uniformed and plainclothes PSB officers carry guns.

The People's Armed Police are technically under the Ministry of Public Security but may come under the dual leadership of the PSB and the PLA in times of crisis. The PAP is a significant presence in Beijing at all times but is likely to act only if there is a major emergency and then only under specific orders. The blue-track-suited Olympic "Flame Attendants" who accompanied the Olympic Torch on its world tour were reported by the Wall Street Journal to be specially trained members of the People's Armed Police. At times of heightened security but no emergency, the presence of PAP officers is more obvious than usual. They may, for example, be stationed 10 meters apart on a major thoroughfare or around Tiananmen Square. PAP officers also carry guns.

## SAFETY TIPS

Some simple precautions you can take before you leave home and throughout your stay in China can better secure your safety.

### ★ BEFORE YOUR TRIP AND UPON ARRIVING IN CHINA

Before you travel to China, ask your home country's foreign ministry or state department for information on how to register with your embassy in Beijing and for embassy addresses, email contacts, and fax and telephone numbers. If you go missing, this should make it easier to find you. When you register with your embassy in Beijing, provide your name, date, and place of birth; your passport number and when and where it was issued; where you are staying in Beijing and, if possible, a telephone number; your travel itinerary; and a contact name and telephone number in your home country. During your stay in China, keep the information about your embassy with you at all times. Nationals from countries without representation in Beijing should check with their home governments about whom to contact in an emergency (medical or other).

### ★ DOCUMENTS TO CARRY WHILE IN CHINA

Carry the original or photocopies of your passport with you at all times; leave another copy with your bureau in Beijing, if you have one, or in your hotel room. Report a lost passport immediately. Two reports are required: one to your country's embassy or consulate and one to the local police. In China, a police report is necessary for the issuance of a new visa.

We also recommend that you carry a Chinese copy of the "Regulations on Reporting Activities in China by Foreign Journalists During the Beijing Olympic Games and their Preparatory Period," reproduced at the end of this Guide in English and Chinese. If necessary, you can show an official that you are reporting legally within the Olympic regulations. Reporters who have faced interference from local authorities when attempting to cover sensitive issues have successfully enlisted help from China's Foreign Ministry media office, which in some instances has instructed local officials not to obstruct reporting.

### ★ TRAVELLING WITHIN CHINA

Purchase plane tickets at the airport and as close to your departure time as possible to avoid alerting authorities where you are headed. Choose local transportation that makes you

inconspicuous—for example, a taxi instead of a hired car. Have a security protocol which will enable you regularly to call an editor or a friend to identify where you are going along with your expected arrival and departure dates. Hotels are required to report foreign guests to the police, so check in as late as possible and check out before morning business hours.

Assume your mobile phone and computer are monitored. Change your phone chip periodically. Use public phones when possible. Turn off your mobile phone in instances when you do not want the authorities to be able to locate you. If you must leave your laptop in your hotel room, make sure it does not contain files that could endanger your sources. Keep any sensitive digital files on a portable USB drive that you keep with you.

### ★ LIMITED-ACCESS AREAS AND SENSITIVE REGIONS

China limits access to public areas that journalists might ordinarily expect to be open. In addition to the restive Tibet and Xinjiang regions, other limited access areas include Olympic training sites, military areas, border regions, prisons, and courts dealing with human rights issues. The government occasionally arranges visits to these types of locations for groups of journalists, so it is worth making joint requests with other organizations. Apply early and follow up.

### ★ ASSESS THE RISKS IN ADVANCE

Before visiting political dissidents, consider the risks to yourself and to them. You may be searched and deported; dissidents and their families may face intense interrogation, increased surveillance, and even arrest. If you are asked to carry photographs, letters, or documents out of the country and decide to comply, the risks to all involved parties multiply.

### ★ RADIO AND TELEVISION REPORTERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS

Be aware that your camera or recording equipment may draw greater attention to your reporting and to those whom you interview. Radio and television reporters should try to use discreet cameras or recording equipment. Change your storage device often and hide any such device. Try to avoid naming or showing the faces of vulnerable sources. Protect contact information by encrypting it on your computer (a procedure which the Chinese government unsuccessfully sought to ban in the 1990s), using pseudonyms, and/or sending it out of the country.

#### \* IF YOU ARE DETAINED....

Detention, or at a minimum, the threat of detention, are real risks faced by reporters in China. The Foreign Correspondents Club of China recorded more than 180 incidents of illegal reporting interference—harassment, intimidation, and detention—in 2007. In the last two weeks of March 2008, the FCCC recorded more than 50 incidents of reporters being harassed, detained, and intimidated while attempting to access the Tibetan Autonomous Region and Tibetan communities in neighboring provinces of Gansu, Sichuan, Qinghai, and Yunnan.

If in spite of the above safety tips you are detained, and especially if any issue of alleged criminal offense arises, call your embassy and National Olympic Committee. Insist on access to a consular official. Embassies and consulates are not automatically notified when one of their citizens is being held. Although consular officials may visit and give you advice, bring you mail, facilitate messages between you and your family, and assist in transmitting money, food, and clothing, they cannot get you released. Before leaving home, find out your rights under your own country's consular agreement. The US Embassy human rights officer is willing to raise the case of any foreign journalist who is detained.

Be polite and avoid escalating the situation. Remain calm and avoid physical confrontation. Try to get the name and contact information of the officers who detain you. If you are allowed multiple phone calls, call the Chinese Foreign Ministry to complain (see Vital Numbers at the end of this Guide). Much that happens to you subsequently depends on your alleged offense. Chinese officials are not trying to create incidents that will result in international repercussions, but, under certain circumstances, they are likely to engage in extensive questioning, seek a written confession, and then order your expulsion.

One major category of offense is the transmission of sensitive information, particularly in relation to political dissidents, religious restrictions, prison conditions, economic instability, and Tibet. If the Chinese government suspects you of carrying records or official documents, even if already public, the questioning would be more intense. You would be asked about your contacts in China, and they would, at a minimum, come under increased surveillance. You, your room, and your belongings would be searched for “incriminating” evidence. Remember that the persons facing the greatest risks are your Chinese sources and contacts. The following section outlines how to best protect them.

# PROTECTING YOUR CHINESE CONTACTS (IV)

## SHIELDING YOUR CHINESE SOURCES, NEWS ASSISTANTS, AND TRANSLATORS

Many journalists arriving in China to cover the Beijing Games may be concerned about getting into trouble with the Chinese authorities over their reporting. The biggest risk is not to you or your news outlet, but rather to the Chinese people with whom you come into contact. An unintended consequence of the temporary Olympic press regulations is that, in an effort to appear cooperative with foreign journalists, government officials, police, and plainclothes thugs may place greater pressure on reporters' Chinese translators or assistants in order to halt sensitive stories' coming to fruition.

Foreign correspondents need “fixers,” researchers, translators, and even drivers for logistical assistance, setting up interviews, translation and interpretation, and help evaluating the relative wisdom and risk of pursuing particular topics or interview subjects at a particular time. Such people are uniquely vulnerable to reprisals from official and non-official agents. Because their work involves the pursuit of stories that are often classified as taboo for domestic journalists, work on those topics attracts the interest of state security officials who regularly call them in to question them or their employers.

A potent lesson of the dangers faced by Chinese assistants to foreign correspondents is the case of Zhao Yan, a researcher for *The New York Times* in Beijing who served a three-year prison sentence after being convicted of fraud, a charge he always denied. His case was marred by multiple violations of due process and there are concerns that his conviction was politically motivated.

A veteran Beijing-based foreign correspondent told Human Rights Watch:

The main issue isn't the [foreign] reporters, but what happens to the [local] people you talk to. The [temporary] rules give us much greater latitude to seek information and to oppose those who try to oppose our reporting, but how does that mesh with local rules in which people can be intimidated and detained for contact with western media?

“I won't do stories about forced evictions anymore because there is a chance that there will be thugs there and I will be beaten. I will be the Chinese guy [with a foreign reporter], so I'll be a target.”

- Chinese assistant to a foreign correspondent, Beijing, June 12, 2007

“I was told [by security officials] that 'you are a Chinese, you must take your side.'”

Chinese assistant of a Beijing-based foreign correspondent, Beijing, June 12, 2007

## WHAT NOT TO DO

BY CARROLL BOGERT

As a college undergraduate, I was an ardent admirer of a leading foreign newspaper correspondent. He opened the paper's bureau in Beijing, and wrote compellingly about the China that was just climbing out of the Cultural Revolution and daring to follow Deng Xiaoping's dicta for a freer economy. He didn't shrink from the dark stories of China's political repression, past and present. Many of those profiles found their way into his best-selling account of those early years when foreign correspondents were setting up operations in China for the first time since the Communist takeover.

The problem was, as I discovered when I arrived in China to work as a stringer for *The Washington Post* in 1985, some of the people that veteran journalist had profiled suffered retribution for talking with a foreign reporter. One of them had even gone to jail. And that made the name of my reporting hero, among the foreign correspondent community in Beijing, just plain mud.

A wire service reporter I knew after Tiananmen made a similar mistake. He was an impressive journalist, who later went to work for a major international paper. But in the wake of the 1989 crackdown on democracy, he quoted a Chinese friend making highly critical comments about the government. The Chinese man was a smart, Western-educated young academic who had befriended many of us correspondents. Thankfully, he made it out of the country without arrest, but the incident could easily have ended less happily.

Just as important as what you write in China is what you don't write: the sources you don't quote (even if they say it's "no problem"); the pictures you don't take; the homes and workplaces you don't barge into. Especially if you're not staying in China for long or you don't speak the language (excuses that neither of the correspondents above could claim), the government's repressive machinery may be invisible to you. You may not recognize your Public Security Bureau tail for what he is. And you'll have long ago left town when he comes back to visit that fascinating internet entrepreneur whom you drank tea with for a couple of hours in Wuhan. You may never even know that your source had to pay a massive bribe to keep his business

going after that, or to keep his kid in college. His wife won't call you when he gets dragged off to the police station for "questioning." They'll have learned their lesson—not to talk to reporters—but you won't be there to learn yours.

So how do you protect your sources in China? As a cub reporter covering Tiananmen for *Newsweek*, I did it the wrong way and got dressed down by my foreign editor. The magazine's media columnist was writing about precisely this question, how to protect sources after the crackdown, and interviewed me for his story. I blithely told him the truth, that I'd changed one letter in a source's last name. What did the readers of *Newsweek* care if Wang Zhen became Wang Zhan?

Whether they cared or not, my editor did, and rightly so. If you're going to change someone's name to protect them, you have to say so in your story. But don't let that deter you. Despite the recent furors over blind sourcing, I don't believe your readers will be put off by it. In fact, that's part of the important information that you have a responsibility to convey to them: that talking to Western reporters is still dangerous for Chinese people, and we still have a responsibility to protect them.

*Carroll Bogert is the Associate Director of Human Rights Watch and a former foreign correspondent for Newsweek magazine.*

## HOW TO HELP PROTECT YOUR CHINESE STAFF

- ★ Neither Human Rights Watch nor the Committee to Protect Journalists provides fixer services or a database of fixer contacts in China. The Foreign Correspondents Club of China has in the past assisted incoming correspondents by referring them to fixers who are known to them and have experience working with foreign journalists. Incoming correspondents should contact the FCCC (fcccadmin@gmail.com) and ask for their assistance in hiring a local fixer whom they can contact and consult with on their own specific reporting objectives.
- ★ Plan to review risks with any Chinese news assistants and agree on contingency plans. Be aware that government agents may intimidate your aides to get information about you or your stories.
- ★ Consider using Chinese-language media resources. Before sending a potentially vulnerable assistant off to interview or phone someone, consider checking domestic media first to see if that information is not already in the public domain. The domestic media in China is much more lively and robust than it once was and even state-run outlets can occasionally break stories.

### CHINESE-LANGUAGE MEDIA RESOURCES

For those who do not have sufficient staff reading or translating Chinese language media and websites, there are two major independent English-language websites that digest and translate select news and feature stories. Consider consulting these sites before and after your arrival in China.

One key site is "Danwei" ([www.danwei.org](http://www.danwei.org)), run by a South African public relations executive based in Beijing. The site's "Media Tools" link on its homepage gives you a useful overview of the Chinese media and also recommends "cool English blogs" and "cool Chinese blogs."

Another key English-language website is "EastSouthWestNorth" ([www.zonaeuropa.com/weblog.htm](http://www.zonaeuropa.com/weblog.htm)), which provides word-for-word translation of pieces from the mainland Chinese, Hong Kong, and Taiwanese media.

See the "Practical Information" section at the end of this Guide for a more complete listing of Chinese media sites that have English-language versions.

# THE GREAT FIREWALL: INTERNET CENSORSHIP IN CHINA (V)



## CHINESE CENSORS AND CYBERCOPS

Online journalists—both Chinese and non-Chinese—who file for overseas websites can face great risk. The Chinese government has launched a comprehensive program to censor online speech and to monitor email and text-messaging. According to estimates cited by The Washington Post on December 26, 2007, the Chinese government employs 30,000 internet censors (or “cybercops”) whose job is to monitor web content and activities in China. “The Ministry of Public Security will be dispatching virtual cops to China’s major web sites,” boasted an April 24, 2007, article by the official Xinhua News Agency, one in a long string of such official pronouncements. “By the end of June, all major portals and online forums will be monitored.”

*The website of state-run newswire Xinhua features animated “cybercops.”*

“Sites are prohibited from spreading news and information that go against state security and public interest.”

—The official Xinhua News Agency in announcing new restrictions on internet content on September 25, 2005. Stories about “illegal” demonstrations and organizations are among the barred content.

On Chinese websites, authorities will move to delete material they find offensive, such as denunciations of the president, coverage of pro-democracy activities, mentions of Falun Gong, exposés of corruption, reportage on the military, or even publishing photos of sleeping representatives at the National People’s Congress. If the postings find their way to international web sites, which cannot be controlled, far more severe action is taken.

The rise of internet journalism and its risks are evident in China, where 18 of the 26 journalists in prison as of May 1, 2008, had worked online, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists’ report, Falling Short. Some of the jailed Chinese internet reporters had written for US-based Chinese-language websites such as Boxun News, which theoretically operate beyond the reach of government censors.

China’s system of internet censorship and surveillance, popularly known as the “Great Firewall,” is the most advanced in the world. In addition to the cybercops monitoring the estimated 220 million web-using Chinese citizens, leading global information technology companies including Yahoo, Google, and Microsoft have also taken on the role of censor. Microsoft censors searches and blog titles to avoid sensitive political topics and has deleted or blocked whole blogs expressing peaceful political views. Google’s slogan, “Don’t Be Evil,” was called into question by users after it launched a censored search engine ([www.google.cn](http://www.google.cn)) in response to Chinese government pressure. Skype’s Chinese software, distributed in partnership with a Hong Kong company, Tom Online, is configured to censor sensitive words in text chats without informing the user, which the company has justified as consistent with local best practices and Chinese law. Skype is also not immune to hacking, as recently experienced by a Chinese human rights activist whose computer may have been compromised with key-logging software or similar spyware.

Email monitoring might be the loosest brick in China’s firewall, but no one should assume that the penalties are light. See below for details of the jailing of Chinese journalist Shi Tao, now serving a 10-year sentence for “divulging state secrets abroad.”

## NEW BLOGGING RULES

China’s internet users face sophisticated filters, registration of all personal domestic websites, and personal responsibility for all content. The government closes blogs and websites without warning. Internet café users, after presenting identification, are issued user numbers which make it easy to track their web use.

Like other forms of journalism, blogging is protected speech. According to the Temporary Regulations, blogs by foreign reporters before and during the Beijing Games are fully permissible. In February 2008, the International Olympic Committee for the first time agreed to allow blogging at the Olympics and issued guidelines for athletes competing at the Beijing Games. Those guidelines, which in principle do not affect the athletes' latitude to speak openly with journalists, stipulate that blogs "conform to the Olympic spirit and the fundamental principles of Olympism as contained in the Olympic Charter, and be dignified and in good taste." As reported by Reuters on February 15, 2008: "The IOC considers blogging... as a legitimate form of personal expression and not a form of journalism...It is required that, when accredited persons at the Games post any Olympic content, it be confined solely to their own personal Olympic-related experience." It is unclear whether an athlete who cares about human rights could argue that blogging about exploited migrant workers is part of his "personal Olympic-related experience." The standard of "good taste" is also highly subjective, and in no instance should the IOC put itself in the role of arbitrating what is political, dignified, or tasteful.



## USEFUL TECHNOLOGIES FOR CRACKING THE GREAT FIREWALL

Adapted from Rebecca MacKinnon's "Working From Mainland China," New Media Workshop, Journalism and Media Studies Centre, University of Hong Kong

It's important to educate yourself about internet censorship and security before you leave for China—don't wait until after arrival to think about these issues. Two useful resources are:

- ★ *Digital Security and Privacy for Human Rights Defenders*, by Frontline Defenders at: <http://info.frontlinedefenders.org/manual/en/esecman/index.html?q=manual/en/esecman/>
- ★ *Everyone's Guide to By-Passing Internet Censorship for Citizens Worldwide*, by Citizenlab at: [http://deibert.citizenlab.org/Circ\\_guide.pdf](http://deibert.citizenlab.org/Circ_guide.pdf)

There are several useful technologies that will allow you to circumvent internet blocks and protect against snooping on your internet connection (by governments, companies, or identity thieves). Unfortunately, thanks to China's internet censorship, many websites that you need to access are blocked in mainland China. Fortunately, there are many technologies for you to get around the blocks. Before traveling to mainland China, you should set up at least one of the following:

### 1. VPN—VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK

A VPN creates a "tunnel" between your computer and a remote network. Many large news organizations (as well as businesses and universities) have their own VPN systems that connect you directly to your home office's network. If your organization has one, be sure you've set up your computer to connect to the VPN, and tested it out, before you depart for China. If your employer does not have a VPN for you to use or you're a freelancer, there are a number of options for purchasing a personal VPN or using another free VPN service (though you need to make sure the people operating it are trustworthy). One personal VPN service highly recommended by people working in China is the WiTopia Personal VPN (<http://www.witopia.net/personalmore.html>).

### 2. TOR

Tor (<https://tor.eff.org/>) is an "anonymizing" tool that utilizes an "onion routing" system. It sends your requests for web pages and any other data through several "nodes" in many parts of the world, which makes it difficult or impossible for Chinese internet service providers (ISPs) to "see" what website you are really trying to visit.

- ★ You should use Tor with Firefox, which can be downloaded at: [www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox](http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox).
- ★ You can download Tor at: <https://tor.eff.org/download.html.en>

Tor does not prevent operators of Tor "exit nodes" from viewing the data you are sending. Some Tor exit node operators are more trustworthy than others. Some are in mainland China. No circumvention system is foolproof. If you do not want anyone to see the content of your email, you **must use encrypted** email (see below for how to encrypt your email).

### 3. PSIPHON

Psiphon (<http://psiphon.civisec.org/>) requires that you have access to a trusted computer outside of mainland China that will always be turned on, and whose owner (if the computer is not yours) trusts you not to use the computer's internet connection in a way that might be illegal in his or her home jurisdiction. You install a "Psiphon node" on that computer, then log into it remotely when you are in the mainland, enabling you to access the internet via that computer's ISP. It's good to have a backup method handy in case that computer gets turned off or goes down accidentally when you are using its connection.

## SECURE COMMUNICATIONS

In electronic communications, avoid using sensitive words or names authorities may be monitoring. Install anti-virus software on your computer and ensure your hard drive and confidential files are password-protected. Change your passwords frequently. If you are sending emails you have any reason to believe could result in negative consequences for yourself or others if they are seen by third parties, especially the Chinese authorities, you need to use encryption when sending emails.

NEVER open unsolicited email attachments even if they are purportedly from somebody you know: even US government computer systems have been compromised by spyware delivered via email attachments. If your computer is compromised with key-logging software or other spyware, your communications can be monitored no matter how much encryption you use.

Note that there is no such thing as foolproof security. There are only degrees of security, degrees of risk, and degrees of convenience and inconvenience—you need to make your own choices based on the specifics of your situation.

### RELATIVELY SECURE:

(Note that none of these methods is really secure unless the **recipient** is also using encrypted email—especially if that recipient is inside China.)

- ★ Create an account with an encrypted email service, such as Hushmail (<http://www.hushmail.com/>), which is not open-source and offers free accounts in addition to paid services with more custom features.
- ★ Another good new service is VaultletSoft (<https://www.vaultletsoft.com/>); it requires you to download a secure email client, but you can put it on a USB drive and use it from any computer.
- ★ A simple way to send encrypted email (assuming that you trust Google in the particular circumstance) is to use Gmail—but **IF AND ONLY IF** you add “s” to the “http” in the URL, so that your address bar reads: <https://mail.google.com/mail/> (you will know the encryption is working in Firefox when the top address bar turns yellow).
- ★ A more technical and secure way to encrypt your email is by using a PGP key. Instructions are provided in “Ensuring your e-mail is truly private” by Reporters Without Borders, available online at: [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=15014](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=15014)



© Committee to Protect Journalists

### INTERNET CENSORSHIP IN CHINA: THE CASE OF SHI TAO

Shi Tao is serving a 10-year sentence in China on charges of “divulging state secrets abroad.” Shi worked as an editor for Dangdai Shang Bao (Contemporary Trade News), a newspaper in the city of Changsha, in Hunan Province. He also wrote essays calling for political reform that were posted on overseas news websites banned in China.

He was arrested in November 2004 for posting notes from a directive issued by China’s Propaganda Department that instructed the media on how to cover the 15th anniversary of the military crackdown in Tiananmen Square. On April 27, 2005, the Changsha Intermediate People’s Court convicted Shi of the crime of “divulging state secrets abroad,” using information provided by US-based internet giant Yahoo, which provided crucial user identification. The court sentenced him to 10 years in prison, with subsequent deprivation of political rights for two years. Shi is currently serving his sentence in Hunan province’s Chishan Prison.

Shi’s imprisonment highlights the Chinese government’s intense efforts to control the internet, the only alternative to China’s officially sanctioned print and broadcast

media. The government monitors internet content, blocks websites, requires bloggers to register their identities, and solicits the help of companies doing business in China. This case has led to widespread criticism of Yahoo. At a US Congressional hearing held by the House Foreign Affairs Committee on November 6, 2007, the committee’s Chairman Tom Lantos told Yahoo Chief Executive Jerry Yang and General Counsel Michael Callahan: “While technologically and financially you are giants, morally you are pygmies.” Later that month, Yahoo settled a lawsuit on behalf of Shi Tao and Wang Xiaoning, another imprisoned activist.

For further information on Shi Tao’s case, please see Human Rights Watch’s report, “Race to the Bottom”: Corporate Complicity in Chinese Internet Censorship (August 2006), available at: [www.hrw.org/reports/2006/china0806/index.htm](http://www.hrw.org/reports/2006/china0806/index.htm).

### NOT SECURE:

Email services provided by internet service providers are not secure because the ISP administrators can access the email, and because such services are generally not encrypted so that the people who control the internet connection you are using at any given time (or who are snooping on it) can potentially monitor your communications going back and forth. Yahoo and Hotmail are also not secure because they too are not encrypted. (Also, if you use a yahoo.com.cn email account, or any mainland email service provider, your email records will be shared with the Chinese police upon request.)

### A NOTE ABOUT ONLINE CHAT AND SKYPE

Most online chat is not secure unless all parties are using an encrypted chat client. Also, many chat clients automatically log your recent conversations—be sure to erase your logs and set your client not to log your chats if you are concerned about security.

Skype’s text chat is considered by security experts to be relatively secure compared to some other chat clients, but only if all parties involved in a chat session have set the software not to log their chat sessions, and also assuming all parties are using the version of Skype downloaded from the main Skype website, not the Chinese version offered in partnership with Tom Online (which is known to include spyware upon installation). Skype voice calls are more secure than calls made via landlines or mobile phones—assuming the room from which you are calling is not bugged.

Remember, there is no such thing as foolproof security. Generally, it is not advisable to conduct sensitive conversations with Chinese sources via email, online chat, Skype, or phone. To the greatest extent possible, meet in person to discuss anything serious and limit your electronic communications to logistical and non-substantive social matters.

For further information, please see a recent article posted on CNet.com: “How safe is instant messaging? A security and privacy survey” (June 9, 2008): [http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578\\_3-9962106-38.html](http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-9962106-38.html).

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION(VI)

## VITAL NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

### KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS IN BEIJING

- Police: +86-10-110
- Fire Alarm: +86-10-119
- Emergencies and Ambulance: +86-10-120
- Traffic Accident Report: +86-10-122
- Taxi Complaint: +86-10-6835 1150
- Airline Information Inquiry: +86-10-1608 122
- Railway Information Enquiry: +86-10-962585
- Weather Forecast: +86-10-12121
- Travel Info Hotline: +86-10-96166
- Emergency assistance for English-speaking visitors in Hong Kong: 999

### CHINESE GOVERNMENT OFFICES

- Foreign Affairs Office: T: +86-10-6519-2708 [www.bjfao.gov.cn](http://www.bjfao.gov.cn)
- Beijing Mayor's Office T: +86-10-12345
- Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau T: +86-10-8402 0101, C: 8401 5300

### SOURCES:

- Foreign Correspondents' Club of China: <http://www.fccchina.org/usefulltelnumbersandcontacts.html>
- Official Beijing municipal website: <http://www.ebeijing.gov.cn/Study/ExActivities/t159125.htm>

### EMBASSIES

- Australian Embassy T: +86-10-5140-4111 [www.china.embassy.gov.au](http://www.china.embassy.gov.au)
- Brazilian Embassy T: +86-10-6352-2881 [www.brazil.org.cn](http://www.brazil.org.cn)
- British Embassy T: +86-10-6532-1961/5 [www.britishembassy.org.cn](http://www.britishembassy.org.cn)
- Canadian Embassy T: +86-10-5139-4000 [www.canada.org.cn](http://www.canada.org.cn)
- French Embassy T: +86-10-8532-8080 [www.ambafrance-cn.org/](http://www.ambafrance-cn.org/)
- German Embassy T: +86-10-6532-2161 [www.deutschebotschaft-china.org](http://www.deutschebotschaft-china.org)
- Indian Embassy T: +86-10-6532-1908 [www.indianembassy.org.cn/](http://www.indianembassy.org.cn/)
- Japanese Embassy T: +86-10-6532-2361 [www.cn.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.cn.emb-japan.go.jp)
- Russian Embassy T: +86-10-6532-1381 [www.russia.org.cn](http://www.russia.org.cn)
- South African Embassy T: +86-10-6532-0171 [www.dfa.gov.za/foreign/sa\\_abroad/sac.htm](http://www.dfa.gov.za/foreign/sa_abroad/sac.htm)
- South Korean Embassy T: +86-10-6505-2608 [www.koreaemb.org.cn/](http://www.koreaemb.org.cn/)
- Thai Embassy T: +86-10-6532-1749 [www.thailand.visahq.com/embassy/china](http://www.thailand.visahq.com/embassy/china)
- US Embassy T: +86-10-6532-3831 [www.usembassy-china.org.cn](http://www.usembassy-china.org.cn)

A more complete list can be found here: <http://www.embassiesabroad.com/embassies-in/China>

### OLYMPIC ORGANIZATIONS

- INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC) Château de Vidy, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland  
Tel: +41-21-621-61-11  
Email: [pressoffice@olympic.org](mailto:pressoffice@olympic.org)  
Website: [www.olympic.org](http://www.olympic.org)

- List of National Olympic Committees (NOCs): [www.olympic.org/uk/organisation/noc/index\\_uk.asp](http://www.olympic.org/uk/organisation/noc/index_uk.asp)

### BEIJING ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES (BOCOG)

- Tel: +86-10-66699185  
Email: [xuanchuan@beijing2008.cn](mailto:xuanchuan@beijing2008.cn)  
Website: [en.beijing2008.cn/bocog/](http://en.beijing2008.cn/bocog/)  
Media and Communications Department:  
Tel: +86-10-66693159  
BOCOG Media Guide: [en.beijing2008.cn/upload/Service-Guide-en/Service\\_Guide\\_en.pdf](http://en.beijing2008.cn/upload/Service-Guide-en/Service_Guide_en.pdf)

### MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS

- FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB OF CHINA (FCCC), Hong Kong  
Tel: +86-10-8532-3807  
Email: [fcccadmin@gmail.com](mailto:fcccadmin@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.fccchina.org/](http://www.fccchina.org/)

### HONG KONG FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB

- 2 Lower Albert Rd, Central, Hong Kong  
Tel: +852-2521-1511  
Email: [fcc@fcchk.org](mailto:fcc@fcchk.org)  
Website: [www.fcchk.org](http://www.fcchk.org)

### SHANGHAI FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB:

- Tel: +86-21-6437 7561  
Email: [info@fccsh.org](mailto:info@fccsh.org)  
Website: [www.fccsh.org](http://www.fccsh.org)

### HUMAN RIGHTS / MEDIA FREEDOM GROUPS

- HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH  
350 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10118-3299

- Tel: +1-212-290-4700  
Fax: +1-212-736-1300  
Email: [hrwpress@hrw.org](mailto:hrwpress@hrw.org)  
Brussels office:  
Tel: +32-2-732-2009  
Fax: +32-2-732-0471  
Email: [hrwbe@hrw.org](mailto:hrwbe@hrw.org)  
Websites: [www.hrw.org/](http://www.hrw.org/), [china.hrw.org/](http://china.hrw.org/)

### COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS

- 330 7th Avenue, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10001  
Tel: +1-212-465-1004  
Fax: +1-212-465-9568  
Email: [info@cpj.org](mailto:info@cpj.org)  
Website: [www.cpj.org/](http://www.cpj.org/)

### WEB RESOURCES REPORTS

- Human Rights Watch, "You Will Be Harassed and Detained": Media Freedoms Under Assault in China Ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games (August 2007): [www.hrw.org/reports/2007/china0807/](http://www.hrw.org/reports/2007/china0807/)

- Committee to Protect Journalists, Falling Short: As the 2008 Olympics Approach, China Falters on Press Freedom (August 2007, updated June 2008): [cpj.org/Briefings/2007/Falling\\_Short/China/index\\_new.html](http://cpj.org/Briefings/2007/Falling_Short/China/index_new.html)

### HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES RELATED TO THE BEIJING GAMES

- Human Rights Watch website, "Beijing 2008: China's Olympian Human Rights Challenges": [china.hrw.org/](http://china.hrw.org/)

- Minky Worden, ed., China's Great Leap: The Beijing Games and Olympian Human Rights Challenges: [china.hrw.org/chinas\\_great\\_leap](http://china.hrw.org/chinas_great_leap)

- US DEPARTMENT OF STATE GUIDELINES  
US Department of State, Bureau of

Consular Affairs' Fact Sheet for the Beijing Games: [travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1762.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1762.html)

### CHINESE WEBSITES

- China View (Xinhua) [www.chinaview.cn/](http://www.chinaview.cn/)  
English version of Xinhua News Agency's website (abridged).

- China Daily: [www.chinadaily.com.cn/](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/)  
The only English-language Chinese daily (average circulation 200,000).

- People's Daily Online [english.peopledaily.com.cn/](http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/)  
English-language online version of The People's Daily (circulation 3 million).

- Central China Television [english.cctv.com/index.shtml](http://english.cctv.com/index.shtml)  
English version of CCTV's website.

- Baidu [www.baidu.com](http://www.baidu.com)  
Highly popular Chinese search engine.

- Sina, Sohu [www.sina.com.cn](http://www.sina.com.cn), [www.sohu.com.cn](http://www.sohu.com.cn)  
Major Chinese portals.

- Tudou [www.tudou.com](http://www.tudou.com)  
The Chinese equivalent of YouTube.

### BLOGS

- RConversation [rconversation.blogs.com/](http://rconversation.blogs.com/)  
Blog by Rebecca MacKinnon, former Beijing bureau chief for CNN, now teaching journalism at Hong Kong University.

- BlogCN [www.blogcn.com](http://www.blogcn.com)

# RISKS AND TEMPORARY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

## A) REGULATIONS ON REPORTING ACTIVITIES IN CHINA

by Foreign Journalists during the Beijing Olympic Games and the Preparatory Period

ENGLISH	CHINESE	
<p><b>Regulations on Reporting Activities in China by Foreign Journalists During the Beijing Olympic Games and the Preparatory Period</b> 12/01/2006</p> <p><b>SOURCE:</b> Service Guide for Foreign Media Coverage of the Beijing Olympic Games and the Preparatory Period (ENGLISH version) <a href="http://en.beijing2008.cn/upload/Service-Guide-en/Service_Guide_en.pdf">http://en.beijing2008.cn/upload/Service-Guide-en/Service_Guide_en.pdf</a> Appendix I, pages 152-154</p>	<p>北京奥运会及其筹备期间外国记者在华采访规定 (<a href="http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2006-12/01/content_5417247.htm">http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2006-12/01/content_5417247.htm</a>)</p> <p><b>SOURCE:</b> Service Guide for Foreign Media Coverage of the Beijing Olympic Games and the Preparatory Period (ENGLISH version) <a href="http://en.beijing2008.cn/upload/Service-Guide-en/Service_Guide_en.pdf">http://en.beijing2008.cn/upload/Service-Guide-en/Service_Guide_en.pdf</a> Appendix I, pages 152-154</p>	
<p><b>ARTICLE 1</b> These Regulations are formulated to facilitate reporting activities carried out in accordance with the laws of the People's Republic of China by foreign journalists in China to advance and promote the Olympic Spirit during the Beijing Olympic Games and the preparatory period.</p>	<p><b>第一条</b> 为了便于北京奥运会及其筹备期间外国记者在中国境内依法采访报道，传播和弘扬奥林匹克精神，制定本规定。</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 4</b> Foreign journalists may bring a reasonable quantity of reporting equipments into China duty free for their own use. The aforementioned equipments should be shipped out of China's territory at the end of their reporting activities.</p>
<p><b>ARTICLE 2</b> These Regulations apply to reporting activities carried out by foreign journalists covering the Beijing Olympic Games and related matters in China during the Beijing Olympic Games and the preparatory period.</p>	<p><b>第二条</b> 北京奥运会及其筹备期间，外国记者在中国境内采访报道北京奥运会及相关事项适用本规定。 本规定所称北京奥运会是指第29届奥林匹克运动会和第13届残疾人奥林匹克运动会。</p>	<p>To bring into China reporting equipment duty free for their own use, foreign journalists should apply for the Equipment Confirmation Letter at Chinese embassies or consulates and present the Equipment Confirmation Letter together with a J-2 visa when going through customs inspection. Foreign journalists who hold Olympic Identity and Accreditation Cards and Paralympic Identity and Accreditation Cards may present the Equipment Confirmation Letter issued by the Organizing Committee of the 29th Olympic Games when going through customs inspection.</p>
<p>The Beijing Olympic Games mentioned in the Regulations refer to the 29th Olympic Games and the 13th Paralympic Games.</p>		<p><b>ARTICLE 5</b> For reporting needs, foreign journalists may, on a temporary basis, bring in, install and use radio communication equipment after completing the required application and approval procedures.</p>
<p><b>ARTICLE 3</b> Foreign journalists who intend to come to China for reporting should apply for visas at Chinese embassies, consulates or other visa-issuing institutions authorized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China.</p>	<p><b>第三条</b> 外国记者来华采访，应当向中国驻外使领馆或者外交部授权的签证机构申请办理签证。</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 6</b> To interview organizations or individuals in China, foreign journalists need only to obtain their prior consent.</p>
<p>Foreign journalists who hold valid Olympic Identity and Accreditation Cards and Paralympic Identity and Accreditation Cards are entitled to multiple entries into the territory of the People's Republic of China with visa exemption by presenting Olympic Identity and Accreditation Cards, together with valid passports or other travel documents.</p>	<p>持奥林匹克身份注册卡的外国记者，在奥林匹克身份注册卡的有效期内免办签证，凭奥林匹克身份注册卡、有效护照或者其他旅行证件多次入出中华人民共和国国境。</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 7</b> Foreign journalists may, through organizations providing services to foreign nationals, hire Chinese citizens to assist them in their reporting activities.</p>
		<p><b>ARTICLE 8</b> The media guide for foreign journalists of the Beijing Olympic Games shall be formulated by the Organizing Committee of the 29th Olympic Games in accordance with these Regulations.</p>
		<p><b>ARTICLE 9</b> These Regulations shall come into force as of 1 January 2007 and expire on 17 October 2008.</p>
		<p><b>第四条</b> 外国记者来华采访所携带的合理数量的自用采访器材可以免税入境，有关器材应当在采访活动结束后复运出境。</p> <p>外国记者办理自用采访器材免税入境的，应当到中国驻外使领馆办理器材确认函，入境时凭器材确认函和J-2签证办理通关手续；持奥林匹克身份注册卡的外国记者，可以凭第29届奥林匹克运动会组织委员会出具的器材确认函办理通关手续。</p> <p><b>第五条</b> 外国记者因采访报道需要可以在履行例行报批手续后，临时进口、设置、使用无线电通信设备。</p> <p><b>第六条</b> 外国记者在华采访，只需征得被采访单位和个人的同意。</p> <p><b>第七条</b> 外国记者可以通过外事服务单位聘用中国公民协助采访报道工作。</p> <p><b>第八条</b> 北京奥运会外国记者服务指南由第29届奥林匹克运动会组织委员会依据本规定制定。</p> <p><b>第九条</b> 本规定自2007年1月1日起施行，2008年10月17日自行废止。</p>

## B) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGULATIONS ON REPORTING ACTIVITIES IN CHINA

by Foreign Journalists during the Beijing Olympic Games and the Preparatory Period

### ENGLISH

#### Implementation of the Regulations on Reporting Activities in China by Foreign Journalists during the Beijing Olympic Games and the Preparatory Period

**SOURCE:** Service Guide for Foreign Media Coverage of the Beijing Olympic Games and the Preparatory Period (ENGLISH version) [http://en.beijing2008.cn/upload/Service-Guide-en/Service\\_Guide\\_en.pdf](http://en.beijing2008.cn/upload/Service-Guide-en/Service_Guide_en.pdf)  
Pages 15-26 (excerpts)

#### 1. THE IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD OF THE REGULATIONS ON REPORTING ACTIVITIES BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

The preparatory period of the Beijing Olympic Games mentioned in the Regulations on Reporting Activities by Foreign Journalists refers to a period from Jan. 1, 2007, when the Regulations on Reporting Activities by Foreign Journalists came into force, to July 7, 2008, one month before the opening ceremony of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad. The period of the Beijing Olympic Games refers to the Games-time from July 8, 2008, one month before the opening ceremony of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, to Oct. 17, 2008, one month after the closing ceremony of the XXIX Paralympic Games.

#### 2. WHO IS COVERED BY THE REGULATION ON REPORTING ACTIVITIES BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

The 'foreign journalists' mentioned in the Regulations on Reporting Activities by Foreign Journalists refers to resident foreign journalists and foreign reporters in China for short-term news coverage, including journalists of Internet media organizations, freelancers, foreign staff of Beijing Olympic Broadcasting Co. Ltd (BOB), holders of valid Olympic Identity and Accreditation Cards (Oiac) for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad and Paralympic Identity and Accreditation Cards (Piac) for the XXIX Paralympic Games issued under the authority of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) respectively.

#### 3. APPLICABLE SCOPE OF THE REGULATIONS ON REPORTING ACTIVITIES BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

The Regulations on Reporting Activities by Foreign Journalists shall apply to the coverage of the Beijing Olympic Games and the preparation as well as political, economic, social and cultural matters of China by foreign journalists, in conformity with Chinese laws and regulations.

### CHINESE

关于《北京奥运会及其筹备期间外国记者在华采访规定》事实说明

**SOURCE:** Service Guide for Foreign Media Coverage of the Beijing Olympic Games and the Preparatory Period (ENGLISH version) [http://en.beijing2008.cn/upload/Service-Guide-en/Service\\_Guide\\_en.pdf](http://en.beijing2008.cn/upload/Service-Guide-en/Service_Guide_en.pdf)  
Appendix I, pages 152-154

#### 1. 《采访规定》的实施期限

《采访规定》中的“北京奥运会筹备期间”是指，从2007年1月1日《采访规定》实施起至北京奥运会开幕前的一个月，即2008年7月7日止；“北京奥运会期间”是指从第29届奥林匹克运动会开幕式前一个月至第13届残疾人奥林匹克运动会闭幕式结束后一个月，即从2008年7月8日起至2008年10月17日止。

#### 2. 关于《采访规定》的适用对象

《采访规定》中的外国记者是指外国常驻记者和临时记者，其中包括网络媒体记者、自由撰稿人、受聘为北京奥林匹克转播有限公司工作的外籍人员和在北京奥运会期间获得国际奥委会媒体类别奥林匹克身份注册卡的媒体从业人员。后者包括持权转播商、注册文字和摄影媒体等北京奥运会注册外国媒体机构的从业人员。

#### 3. 关于《采访规定》的适用范围

《采访规定》既适用于外国记者在中国境内依法采访报道北京奥运会赛事及其组织筹备情况，又适用于外国记者在中国境内依法采访报道中国的政治、经济、社会和文化等方面事项。

#### 4. J-2 VISA APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Foreign journalists intending to come to China to report or prepare for their coverage of the Beijing Olympic Games should apply for visas at Chinese embassies, consulates or other visa-issuing institutions authorized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (MFA). [...]

#### 4. 外国记者来华采访签证的相关手续

外国记者来华采访或从事奥运报道筹备工作，应当向中国驻外使馆或者外交部授权的签证机构申请办理签证。

#### 5. HOW TO GO THROUGH CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FOR REPORTING EQUIPMENT CARRIED WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS FOR THEIR OWN USE

Foreign journalists may bring a reasonable quantity of reporting equipment into China for their own use free of duty. The aforementioned equipment should be taken out of China's territory after their reporting activities are finished. [...]

#### 6. HOW TO TEMPORARILY IMPORT, INSTALL AND USE RADIO COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

During the Beijing Olympic Games and the preparatory period, foreign journalists may, on a temporary basis, bring in, install and use radio communication equipment needed for their reporting, after completing the required application and approval procedures in conformity with Chinese laws and regulations. [...]

#### 6. 外国记者如何办理临时进口、设置、使用无线电通信设备的事项

北京奥运会及其筹备期间，外国记者因采访报道需要可以在履行例行报批手续后，临时进口、设置、使用无线电通信设备。

#### 7. INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

To interview organizations or individuals in China, foreign journalists need only to obtain the prior consent of such organizations or individuals.

#### 7. 关于外国记者在华采访

外国记者在华采访，只需征得被采访单位和个人同意即可。

#### 8. TRAVEL OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IN CHINA

Foreign journalists with valid visas or certificates, the same as any other traveler, may freely travel to places open to foreigners designated by the Chinese Government.

#### 8. 关于外国记者在华旅行

外国记者同外国旅游者一样，持有效的签证或证件，可以自由前往中国政府规定的对外国人开放的地区旅行。

#### 9. HOW TO EMPLOY CHINESE CITIZENS TO ASSIST IN REPORTING ACTIVITIES BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

Foreign media organizations or foreign journalists may, through organizations providing services to foreign nationals, hire Chinese citizens to assist them in their reporting activities. [...]

#### 9. 外国记者如何聘用中国公民协助采访报道工作

外国媒体机构或外国记者可以通过外事服务单位聘用中国公民协助采访报道工作。

*Front cover photo: A security guard tries to stop photographs being taken of an area of apartment blocks located near the National Stadium, also known as the Bird's Nest, that are earmarked for demolition to make way for an Olympic development in Beijing, December 3, 2007.*

*(c) 2008 Reuters*

<http://china.hrw.org>