

January 29 , 2019 Statement by Li Ching-yu, Wife of Li Ming-che

In solemn protest of the Chinese government's abuse of the human rights of a prisoner of conscience by cancelling humanitarian visits from family

Sleeping pills don't work,
and alcohol doesn't work.
I'm exhausted and want to stop
but this spirit in me won't permit it.

I need to go, to go
To some great height and look down.
I need to go until I reach that height
I need to keep going.

- from Liu Xia, "Rant" 2003; translated from the Chinese by Ming Di and Jennifer Stern

Extracting forced confessions, torturing prisoners – in all of history, no perpetrator of violence who actively does these things has ever admitted to them.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day was three days ago. According to statistics, five percent of people in Europe still refuse to acknowledge that a genocidal holocaust ever occurred.

A few weeks ago, it became apparent that Taiwan still has Cheng Hui-chung and her fellow supporters of Chiang Kai-shek, who refuse to

acknowledge the crimes that Chiang Kai-shek committed in slaughtering dissidents.

But these things will not stand in my way. I will continue on my path, whether or not others join me.

The path of exposing violence is not a smooth one, and I know this.

But I will continue down this path.

Because Li Ming-che is not a criminal, but a prisoner of conscience.

I declare to the people of the world that my political motive is to let the whole world know of my beloved partner Li Ming-che, a prisoner of conscience who, at this very moment, is suffering in prison only because he himself showed concern for the families of victims of political oppression, and only because he upheld the universal value of freedom. My political motive is clear; I have nothing to conceal from anyone.

Where freedom reigns, no political motives need be concealed from anyone. It is only where dictators rule that others are accused of “hidden political motives.” In Taiwan, if I were to run for president, nobody would speak about “hidden political motives.”

My meeting with Li Ming-che happened entirely under the supervision of the PRC government. After returning to my country, I held a press conference simply to describe the situation of Li Ming-che as I actually saw and heard it. What I remember most clearly were his urgent instructions at the end of our meeting:

“Just remember this: go back, go back to Taiwan, go everywhere and tell everyone about this. I have so much more to say about how they keep

messing around with me. Everyone wants to get in on the act. They even order me to sign papers sending back books I receive that are hundreds and thousands of years old. How stupid is that! But I don't want to bother the people handing me these papers, because I know they're not the people making the decisions. Get out there and tell everyone about this. I have so much more to say."

The PRC issued a statement saying, "Disregarding reality, you afterwards made a public statement containing serious factual errors..." In that case, I would ask PRC to come out and release the audio and video of our meeting.

With my husband in a prison in the PRC, what position am I in to tell lies? If I told any lies, you could expose them immediately.

Are not human rights the very things that, in the laws of the PRC, "impede the reformation of criminals"? Not to mention that Li Ming-che is himself no criminal.

The universal human rights standard for those incarcerated is found in Article 10 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: "All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person."

From December 2008, after Liu Xiaobo was detained by the PRC government on the "suspicion of inciting subversion of state power," international attention to his case and attempts to intervene on his behalf continued unabated. But from beginning to end, the PRC blocked all efforts by international human rights organizations to visit him, responding only that Liu Xiaobo was being treated humanely in prison

and using state propaganda videos to try to stem the tide of criticism. In June 2017, the international press reported that Liu Xiaobo had contracted terminal liver cancer, and one month after that, Liu Xiaobo passed away from his illness. Given that liver cancer is a slow-developing, chronic illness, who knows how long the PRC government hid his condition from the world? Everyone knows of the “hidden political motives” at play in these sorts of cases in the PRC.

Humanitarian visits are the inherent right of prisoners and their family members. If the PRC government will not let me visit, I demand that it let representatives of international human rights organizations and the Mainland Affairs Council of the Republic of China (Taiwan) visit Li Ming-che on my behalf. I do not accept any visits by Taiwanese businesspeople in the PRC, which are an unfair inconvenience to them.

Thank you all.