



**Desmond Tutu**



**Chen Guangcheng**

## **“A YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA” OPEN LETTER**

From June 2013 to June 2014, the world will approach the 25th anniversary of China's crackdown in Tiananmen Square in 1989, when the Chinese military opened fire, killing thousands of students and other peaceful demonstrators.

Today there are calls from incoming President Xi Jinping for a "renaissance" in China, and the realization of the China dream. At the same time, many in the Chinese leadership and media have recognized that the dream for China cannot become a reality without social and political reform.

We have taken President Xi Jinping's statements as a small opportunity for hope that China, in expanding its role as a world power, will begin to throw off some of its more oppressive practices.

We find reason to hope that he and others in the Chinese leadership will hear the voices of ordinary citizens across the globe, when we say that the China dream will not and cannot be realized while its citizens are subject to "thought reform" through the oppressive *laogai* labor camps.

Since China's Cultural Revolution literally millions of Chinese citizens have been forced into slave labor camps for offenses related to thought and expression. In recent times these include increasing percentages of innocents, including lawyers who tried to defend their own rights and rights of others, ordinary public who tried to uphold their rights and were abducted and sent to jail to be persecuted; and those who have done nothing more than state their loyalty to their religious leader, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, participate in Christian religions which have not been "authorized" by the Communist Party, or practice Falun Gong, a spiritual meditation system based on the ancient traditions of China itself,

Reports from former inmates of the *laogai* camps detail prisoners living on the edge of starvation and exhaustion in infested and horrific environments, while being forced to produce commercial goods -- goods that we have unknowingly purchased in Western stores. Uncounted numbers of prisoners, credibly believed to be in the tens of thousands, have been executed and their organs harvested for sale -- a practice so despicable it is nearly beyond our comprehension.

As we approach this historic anniversary, today's world's leaders have the opportunity to distinguish themselves from leaders of the past who, for the sake of economic progress or in the name of "national security", have turned a blind eye to atrocities committed by Chinese leaders against their own citizenry. We ask our leaders to speak on our behalf to President Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party. Tell them what they already know -- that the dream of China can be realized only when its citizens' universal human rights and dignity are upheld and respected. And that the *laogai* system and the brutal repression of freedom of thought, conscience and speech, the most basic of human rights, will remain a festering sore on the China dream until it is addressed and removed.

God Bless You,

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Chen Guangcheng

June 4<sup>th</sup> 2013 (was published front page of Huffington Post that day also... <http://huff.to/17lp8GS> )

SOURCE and PETITION: [www.TheCommunity.com](http://www.TheCommunity.com) and [www.FreeChinaMovie.com](http://www.FreeChinaMovie.com)



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**Chen Guangcheng**

**“A YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA” PETITION**

June 4, 2014 will mark the 25th anniversary of China's crackdown in Tiananmen Square in 1989, when the Chinese military fired on its own citizens, killing thousands of university students and ordinary citizens.

As we approach this historic anniversary, we ask our leaders, and the leaders of the Chinese Communist Party, to hear the concerns of ordinary citizens across the globe, both inside and outside China, when we say that the China dream will not and cannot be realized while its citizens are denied the most essential of human rights -- freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

China cannot and will not experience the "renaissance" it leaders call for while Chinese citizens are subjected to "thought reform" through the oppressive laogai labor camps, while they are forced into slave labor camps and even executed for offenses related to thought, expression and religious belief.

We call for an end to the use of slave labor for the production of commercial goods, and the nearly incomprehensible practice of harvesting the organs of executed prisoners.

Between today and June 4, 2014, we ask that you stand above the leaders of the past and recognize universal human rights and human dignity must form the very foundation of any twenty first century country, that economic growth without freedom of the individual leads to repression for economic gain. Please voice our concerns to the Chinese leadership, and call for an end to the brutal repression of intellectual and religious freedom in China.

**Please go to following website to add your voice to the call. Spread the word...Free China!**

PETITION can be found on: [www.TheCommunity.com](http://www.TheCommunity.com) and [www.FreeChinaMovie.com](http://www.FreeChinaMovie.com)

Alternatively, please fill out the information below, and one of our Free China volunteers will help you fill out the online petition! Please print with BLOCK LETTERS so it's easier to read, thanks!

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_