



PRESS RELEASE

**Co-Chairman
James P. McGovern**

**Co-Chairman
Frank R. Wolf**

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Contact: Mike McVicker (202-225-3599)

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Co-Chairmen Declare Support for the United Nations' Working Group's Call for Chinese Authorities to Release Liu Xiaobo from Illegal Detention;

Co-Chairs Also Urge the Lifting of Liu Xia's House Arrest

Washington – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Co-Chairmen James P. McGovern (D-MA) and Frank R. Wolf (R-VA) today strongly endorsed the findings of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and called for Liu Xiaobo to be released immediately from detention by Chinese authorities. The Co-Chairmen also supported the Working Group's conclusion that Liu Xiaobo's wife Liu Xia should be freed from house arrest.

The Working Group found several violations of the Lius' rights. As one example, the Working Group determined that Liu Xiaobo was not informed at the time of arrest of the reasons for his arrest, nor was he promptly informed of any charges against him and brought before a judge. Furthermore, he was held incommunicado for an extended period of time and was not granted access to legal counsel. Both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and customary international law prohibit arbitrary detention or arrest. Therefore, the pre-trial detention of Mr. Xiaobo constitutes a clear violation of Article 9 of the UDHR.

In reaction, Congressman McGovern stated, "I am pleased that the Working Group has recognized these terrible abuses. I call on the Chinese government to reunite this couple and allow them to live their lives free and at peace. The Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission will continue to highlight these cases and engage countries like China where human rights are not fully respected"

Congressman Wolf added, "Today, I urge the Chinese government to free Liu Xiaobo immediately and unconditionally so that he can be reunited with his wife and family. The findings of the Working Group have found that several of Liu's basic rights have been violated. We at the Commission will continue to be an advocate for those who are fighting for freedom and democracy."

The bipartisan Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission was established in the U.S. House of Representatives to educate Members of Congress on human rights issues and advocate on behalf of human rights defenders world-wide.

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