

United States Congressional-Executive Commission on China

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In This Issue

CECC Updates

- [Beijing Court Sentences Liu Xiaobo to 11 Years](#)
- [The Trial of Liu Xiaobo—Joint Statement by CECC Chairman Byron Dorgan and Cochairman Sander Levin](#)
- [Prosecutors Indict Liu Xiaobo; Trial To Take Place December 23](#)
- [Authorities Sentence Rights Activist Huang Qi to Three Years in Prison](#)
- [Authorities Begin New Incentive Initiative To Continue Population Control in Xinjiang](#)
- [Ministry of Health Ranks HIV/AIDS Deadliest Infectious Disease in China, Government Harassment of Advocates Continues](#)
- [New Regulation in Xinjiang Appears To Expand Controls Over Children's Religious Freedom \(Includes Update\)](#)
- [Lead Poisoning in Children in Hunan Triggers Protests by Parents and Raises Questions About Governmental Accountability](#)

CECC Updates

Beijing Court Sentences Liu Xiaobo to 11 Years

The Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court sentenced prominent intellectual Liu Xiaobo on December 25, 2009, to 11 years in prison for "inciting subversion of state power," a crime under Article 105, Paragraph 2, of the [Criminal Law](#). The court also sentenced Liu to two years' deprivation of political rights upon his release. Human Rights in China released an English [translation](#) of the court's verdict on December 30, 2009. The court cited [essays](#) Liu had written critical of the Communist Party and China's political system and his participation in [Charter 08](#). The court highlighted Liu's use of the Internet, including his posting of essays online and his e-mailing of the charter and its signatures to overseas Web sites. Liu submitted his appeal of the decision to the Beijing High People's Court on December 29, according to a January 4, 2010, New York Times [article](#).

[Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.](#)

The Trial of Liu Xiaobo—Joint Statement by CECC Chairman Byron Dorgan and Cochairman Sander Levin

Following the [trial of Mr. Liu Xiaobo](#) in Beijing on the morning of December 23, China once again is at an important crossroads, and seems to be turning in the wrong direction. We call on the Chinese government to release Mr. Liu, and to respect the rights of all Chinese citizens to peacefully express their political views and desires for universally-recognized fundamental freedoms.

[Click here for the full statement. This link will open in a new Web page.](#)

Prosecutors Indict Liu Xiaobo; Trial To Take Place December 23

Prosecutors indicted prominent intellectual Liu Xiaobo on December 10, 2009, and a Beijing court will hold his trial on December 23. Charged with the crime of "inciting subversion," Liu faces up to 15 years in prison for essays he wrote critical of the Chinese government and political system and for participating in Charter 08. Liu's case has been marred from the beginning by apparent violations of Chinese legal protections for criminal suspects. Both the United States and European Union recently called for Liu's release.

[Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.](#)

Authorities Sentence Rights Activist Huang Qi to Three Years in Prison

In late November 2009, a court in Chengdu city, Sichuan province, sentenced rights activist Huang Qi to three years in prison for illegal possession of state secrets. Huang had used his Web site to advocate on behalf of parents who lost children in school collapses during the May 2008 Sichuan earthquake.

[Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.](#)

Authorities Begin New Incentive Initiative To Continue Population Control in Xinjiang

The central government has launched a series of initiatives in the far-western region of Xinjiang to strengthen the region's population control work, including through monetary rewards to residents in designated areas who have fewer births than allowed under the region's population planning requirements. The reward program, started in fall 2009 and mainly directed at ethnic minorities, is part of broader efforts throughout China to control population growth using both punitive measures and incentives to promote compliance. Citizens who expose abuses in official implementation of population planning policies have faced repercussions including harassment and detention, as a recent case from Xinjiang illustrates.

[Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.](#)

Ministry of Health Ranks HIV/AIDS Deadliest Infectious Disease in China, Government Harassment of Advocates Continues

December 1, 2009, marked the 22nd annual World AIDS Day. HIV/AIDS was first officially reported in China in 1985, but reached epidemic proportions in rural areas in the early to mid-1990s due in part to tainted blood transfusions conducted at makeshift blood and plasma donation stations set up by enterprising businessmen and government officials. Medical procedures in these facilities reportedly were deficient: needles and tubes reportedly were reused, blood from multiple donors was mixed, and once plasma had been removed, re-injected into donors of the same blood type. Such practices reportedly resulted in the spread of blood-borne diseases including HIV. HIV/AIDS continues to spread throughout China today through a variety of channels. Many who provide assistance to or who advocate on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS in China face government pressure, including harassment and other forms of abuse, as detailed below.

[Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.](#)

New Regulation in Xinjiang Appears To Expand Controls Over Children's Religious Freedom (Includes Update)

A new regulation on the protection of minors, adopted by the Xinjiang government and effective December 1, 2009, appears to expand formal legal controls over children's freedom of religion and parents' right to impart religious teachings. The regulation reportedly addresses the "negative impact" various religious activities have on minors. While the full text of the regulation is unavailable, an earlier draft version of the regulation expanded upon restrictions in force in Xinjiang that already prohibited parents or guardians from letting children engage in religious activities, adding more specificity to earlier restrictions and stipulating obligations for government offices and other entities to intervene in certain cases. The prohibition, unseen elsewhere in China, appears to have no basis in Chinese law and also contravenes international protections for freedom of religion. [See the end of this analysis for an update based on a copy of the regulation made available on December 25.]

[Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.](#)

Lead Poisoning in Children in Hunan Triggers Protests by Parents and Raises Questions About Governmental Accountability

The suspicion of lead poisoning in hundreds of children caused by industrial pollution prompted protests by parents in Hunan province in August 2009. The heavy metal pollution case raises questions about governmental accountability; the plant linked to the lead pollution did not have approval to operate from local environmental authorities. In addition, parents of ill children expressed reservations about the results of lead poisoning tests conducted locally, and also reported that some hospitals would not conduct the tests. The case also raises questions about freedom of expression; local officials reportedly intimidated and warned parents not to talk to the media.

[Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.](#)
