



**Statement of U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown,  
Cochairman of the Congressional-Executive  
Commission on China (CECC)**

**CECC Hearing on “Two Years Later: The Ongoing  
Detentions of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Liu Xiaobo  
and His Wife Liu Xia”**

**December 12, 2012, Washington, DC**

Good morning. I want to thank Chris Smith for hosting this hearing on the ongoing detentions of two human rights advocates. We stand united behind this cause.

We stand with our government, governments around the world, and the 134 Nobel laureates led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, to urge incoming Chinese President Xi Jinping to immediately and unconditionally release Liu Xiaobo and his wife Liu Xia.

Let me be clear, there is no question that China has made progress on many fronts.

But we know that the Chinese people are not satisfied with economic progress in the absence of justice. We know that Chinese citizens – like women and men around the world – want and deserve basic human rights.

They deserve freedom and justice and equality of opportunity. They deserve to voice their opinions without fear of oppression.

That’s why we’re here today.

For decades, Liu Xiaobo has been one of the most passionate and thoughtful advocates for freedom, justice, and human rights in China.

He was a leader during the 1989 Tiananmen democracy protests. He has written nearly 800 essays advocating human rights and peaceful reform. He was one of the co-authors of Charter 08, a document released in 2008 calling for an end to authoritarian rule and respect for human rights.

For this, Liu has been censored.

He has endured three years in a labor camp. And, now, he is serving the fourth year of an 11-year prison sentence.

That’s why, when the Nobel Committee awarded Liu the Peace Prize in 2010, they noted his *“long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.”*

They understood, just as many in China and around the world understand, that freedom and human rights are not freely given.

It takes courage and commitment. It takes people like Liu who are willing to sacrifice for their neighbors, families, fellow citizens – and the next generation.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. popularized this struggle as a fierce commitment to building the “*beloved community*”.

Indeed, Liu follows in the tradition of Peace Prize winners, like Dr. King, who have labored to build a better world, brick by brick.

In 1991, the Nobel committee awarded the prize to Aung San Suu Kyi for her democratic opposition to a brutal regime.

All of these activists have fought oppression with a message of non-violence, an unwillingness to give up, and love.

Liu spoke about the efficacy of nonviolence in 2006 when he wrote that “*the greatness of non-violent resistance is that even as man is faced with forceful tyranny ... the victim responds to hate with love ...and to violence with reason.*”

Each day China denies citizens, like Liu, basic freedoms; China loses out on the diversity of opinions that lead to better government policies and a more just society.

Imprisoning Liu Xiaobo is not the act of a nation serious about earning a place of respect at the global table.

It is an act of an authoritarian state afraid of the strength of its own people.

Aung San Suu Kyi was finally able to give her Nobel acceptance speech in June of this year, more than two decades after she was awarded the prize. During her speech she said everyone is capable of contributing to peace.

Liu Xiaobo exemplifies the courage needed to cultivate justice.

We urge China to release the Liu family. Liu Xiaobo shouldn't have to wait two decades to give his own acceptance speech.

We look forward to that day. Thank you and I look forward to the testimony of our esteemed witnesses.