

**Press Conference with Beijing dissidents, European Parliament, Brussels October 10 2007, organised by Edward McMillan-Scott, Vice-President of the European Parliament (Conservative, Yorkshire & Humber UK) with Willy Fautre, Director, Human Rights Without Frontiers**

**Human Rights Without Frontiers Int'l  
Associated member of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights**

### **CHINA-EU: Beijing dissidents speak to Brussels Press**

MEP McMillan-Scott's Office / - A ground-breaking press conference today [October 10] in Brussels heard, via a direct telephone line from Beijing, noted Chinese dissidents speaking about the deteriorating rights situation in China as it prepares for the Olympics.

Contributing to the press conference were Dr Li Baiguang - a human rights lawyer - and Mr Hu Jia, who with his wife, Zeng Jinyan, were named last year by Time Magazine as among the 100 most important people in the world on account of their environmental activism. The press conference focussed on the EU-China human rights dialogue which begins in Beijing on October 15 and the opening of the 17th Communist Party Congress on the same day.

Mr Hu Jia said through an interpreter that there were many human rights violations committed by the regime because of the Olympics and that many thousands of dissidents have been removed from Beijing in advance of the Party Congress.

Dr Li Baiguang said "The Olympic Games are a peaceful and friendly gathering of humankind, not an opportunity to violate the human rights of the Chinese people."

Mr Willy Fautré, Director of Brussels-based NGO, Human Rights Without Frontiers, said:

"Heads of states and democratically-elected politicians should not accept any invitation from President Hu Jintao to the Beijing Olympics, while people in China are still being tortured. The world should focus on the real China, in which hundreds of thousands are being repressed because of their religious faith or belief."

Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, Vice-President of the European Parliament (Conservative, Yorkshire & Humber), who recently returned from a speaking tour on religious freedom in Asia and who organised the press conference, said:

"During the current crackdown, the handful of reformists I had contact with during a visit to Beijing in May 2006 - Falun Gong or Christians, like the renowned attorney Gao Zhisheng - are beaten up, imprisoned or in two cases being tortured. They are among the individual victims which the EU will present in its human rights dialogue with Beijing, including who is torturing and where. If the repression continues, we

should move the Olympics - to uphold their "universal fundamental ethical principles" [Article 1, Olympic Charter]."

McMillan-Scott also released a letter which Mr Gao Zhisheng had written to him prior to his being taken away by security forces from his home on 22 September 2007. On September 2 McMillan-Scott had a four-hour telephone conversation with Gao, who stressed the severity of Beijing's repression of religions, especially the Buddha-school Falun Gong movement, which has millions of adherents.

Also speaking at today's press conference were Istvan Szent-Ivanyi MEP, (ALDE) and Thomas Mann MEP (EPP-ED), Chairman of the All Party Tibet Group.

#### NOTE FOR EDITORS

The full text of Gao Zhisheng's letter to Edward McMillan-Scott is published on [www.boycottbeijing.eu](http://www.boycottbeijing.eu) and the full text of Dr Li Baiguang's letter is on [www.hrwf.net](http://www.hrwf.net)

Extracts of the letter of Gao Zhisheng, noted Christian human rights attorney, disappeared from his house arrest on September 22, to Edward McMillan-Scott MEP

The letter below was received in September through an intermediary, who translated it from a handwritten text.

"Dear Mr Scott, writing to you is the only way of communication that I have at present. Although it is somewhat primitive or old fashioned, it is still much less primitive than the way my family and I have been handled by the Chinese Communist regime since last year. Deep in my heart, I have never thought of gratitude for your persistence of condemnation against present-day Chinese evil dictatorship. In my opinion, we are common warriors conquering darkness. Yet, that does not limit my respect from bottom of my heart to you, as a human being far away from this dictatorship, a senior politician from the free world as well as a defender for human feelings and conscience.

"The ethical values and conscience of the entire human race is being eaten away through "trade relations, Olympic Games" and other "state" visits. Mainstream politicians from the West are aware of the current phenomenon of gaining interests at the expenses of human traditional ethic values. This interest over fundamental ethics and virtue has become a common practice of international politics. Under this situation, anything unrelated to economic interests has been openly neglected for a long time.

"Dear Mr. Scott, human civilization has entered current era, but this era seems to have no relation with Chinese Communist regime. Although it has got the technology to enter space, it has no intention, politically speaking, to give up its jungle games. Now Chinese Communist Party is preparing its 17th National Party Congress. Its preparation is totally operated in darkness, while its subjects are like animals or private property handed over to the next ruler. This power succession like the mafia's has lasted since Mao. The only change is today's successors are all in Western suits. We must work hard to change it, even if it is purely for the humanitarian value."

Extracts of open letter by Attorney Dr. Baiguang Li to European Parliament, presented by Willy Fautre, director, Human Rights Without Frontiers

"The human rights situation in China has been worsening recently. Some Christians, political dissidents and human rights defenders have been intimidated, threatened, silenced, beaten by "unknown assailants", put under surveillance and house arrest, prosecuted and sent to prison. Especially, two famous lawyers as well human rights advocates: Gao Zhisheng and Li Heping, the worst recent examples.

"At mid-September of this year, after Gao Zhisheng had sent an open appeal to the members of the US Senate and Congress, he was taken away from his home by the police and now, it is not known where he is.

"Another prominent attorney, Li Heping, was brutally beaten by unidentified people. Before that, policemen warned him several times and told him he should leave Beijing, but attorney Li refused to follow policemen's order. Attorney Li has provided much legal aid to Christians and members of Falun Gong in China.

"As a Chinese citizen and a human rights defender in China, I strongly condemned such illegal actions made by the Chinese authorities. I especially urge the Chinese authorities to stop any infringement on our rights and our freedoms which are protected by the constitutional law and other laws in China. The Chinese authorities should allow the Chinese people to fully enjoy their rights and their freedoms."

The full text of these letters are at [www.boycottbeijing.eu](http://www.boycottbeijing.eu)

and <http://www.hrwf.net>

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These experts can be contacted to participate in conferences as guest-speakers