



DIALOGUE

Fall 2001/Issue 5

Against Backdrop of Terrorist Attacks, Executive Director Holds Talks in Beijing

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On the evening of September 11, 2001, The Dui Hua Foundation's Executive Director, John Kamm, was in his Hong Kong hotel room, packing his bags for the flight to Beijing the next morning. He turned on the TV and watched in horror as the terrorist attacks unfolded. Despite losses to family and friends, Kamm went ahead with his trip to Beijing, the sixth visit made at the official invitation of China's Ministry of Justice since May 2000.

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The visit was a success, and it helped lay the foundation for the resumption of the official dialogue on human rights between the two governments. The first session of the resumed dialogue between China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the US State Department took place in Washington between October 9 and October 11 (see page 8).

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While in Beijing, Kamm hosted a banquet to mark ten years of dialogue between himself and China's Ministry of Justice on matters relating to prisoners and prisons. Attending were senior members of China's Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and China Society of Prisons. Demonstrating the strong support for Dui Hua's efforts on the part of the US government, the recently arrived American Ambassador to Beijing, Clark Randt, Jr., attended the September 13 function. Kamm gave his Chinese guests copies of letters of congratulation from Senator John Kerry (D-Massachusetts), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on East Asian and the Pacific Affairs, and Congressman Jim Leach, Chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific of the House of Representatives' Committee on International Relations.

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At the banquet, and in subsequent meetings, Chinese officials told Kamm that it is a policy of the Chinese government to strengthen and increase cooperation with Dui Hua. Giving substance to these remarks, the trip to Beijing was one of considerable achievement.

Main Achievements of the Beijing Trip

- The Ministry of Justice provided information on eight prisoners, the largest number given in a single installment in nearly three years. A number of long-serving counterrevolutionaries have had their sentences reduced or been paroled. The quality of the information provided was exceptionally high. As noted in the last issue of this newsletter, important information had been omitted from the last installment of information provided in June. In the June installment (published in the Summer 2001 issue), the prisoner's detention date and sentence date, as well as the location of the prison where the prisoner was being held, were omitted. The most recent installment provided the information that had been omitted. (See page 3 for a translation of the information provided on the eight prisoners).
- Kamm was also able to have the fullest discussion yet with the Ministry of Justice on the system of medical parole; the discussion took place with reference to two specific cases raised by Kamm.
- Dui Hua and the Ministry of Justice will examine possible joint research projects. Dui Hua intends stepping up its program of supplying the Ministry of Justice's library with books on American constitutional and criminal law, and on international human rights law.
- After a hiatus of more than two years, contact was resumed with China's Supreme People's Court. The court will consider, on a case-by-case basis, requests for information on trials, potentially opening another channel of communication between Dui Hua and China's central government.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs discussed its plans for a productive dialogue on human rights with the US State Department, and it expressed the hope that a role for Dui Hua's unofficial dialogue will be found to help make the official dialogue a success.

Guangdong Prisoner Information

In Hong Kong, Kamm met with representatives of a Guangdong Province think-tank. They gave him information on seven prisoners arrested in Guangdong that they had obtained from official government sources. Guangdong has replied to virtually all Dui Hua requests for information made over the last 12 months. Liu Baiqiang, the last prisoner in the province serving a sentence for a non-violent offense related to the June 4, 1989 disturbances, has been released.

Overall Outlook

The staging of a productive session of the official human rights dialogue and the release and expulsion of US citizen Wu Jianmin came as a surprise to many in Washington who had come to the conclusion that the Bush administration's preoccupation with the fight against terrorism would result in China being less willing to address human rights disputes between the two countries. Many hold the view that, without threats of sanctions and other kinds of pressure, the Chinese government will not make concessions in the area of human rights.

In fact, a review of official and unofficial dealings with the Chinese government in the area of human rights leads to the conclusion that Beijing is more likely to release prisoners and take other steps like hosting rights delegations and signing rights treaties when the Chinese leadership sees an opening to improve relations with the United States. The present crisis, which has seen the Chinese government align itself with the United States in the war against terrorism, represents an opportunity to fundamentally improve US-China relations. In meetings like the APEC Summit in Shanghai, leaders of the two countries will take advantage of this opportunity to increase dialogue and cooperation in several areas, including human rights. Dui Hua's unofficial dialogue on human rights will be a principal beneficiary of improved US-China relations.

Prisoner Information Update

The Ministry of Justice gave John Kamm information on eight prisoners after he visited Beijing in September 2001. The Ministry had provided information on three of the prisoners – Zhang Chengjian (whose case was translated for the “Case Uncovered” feature of the Summer 2001 issue of Dui Hua’s newsletter), Jampel Changchub, and Jigme Sangpo – in June, but had omitted several pieces of information. Translations of the information given to Kamm by the Ministry on all eight prisoners are provided below in full.

Chen Jiahu (陈家虎), also known as Chen Ying, male, 64 years old, prior to arrest was a farmer in Fenggang County, Guizhou Province. Sentenced on July 26, 1990 to 15 years’ imprisonment (sentence to run from September 27, 1989 to September 26, 2004) by the Guizhou Province, Zhunyi Municipal Intermediate People’s Court for committing counter-revolutionary crimes. Currently serving his sentence in Guizhou Province’s Zhunyi Prison. Because he sincerely expressed regret and a willingness to reform, his sentence was reduced by one year in 1995, and his sentence will now be completed on September 26, 2003.

Zhang Chengjian (张成俭), male, 58 years old, prior to arrest was a farmer in Yishui County, Shandong Province. Sentenced on October 8, 1984 to 20 years’ imprisonment (sentence to run from October 15, 1983 to October 14, 2003) with five years’ subsequent deprivation of political rights by the Shandong Province Higher People’s Court for committing the crimes of organizing and leading a counterrevolutionary group and counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement. On October 8, 1988, his sentence was extended by seven years for committing murder. After the extension, his new release date was set for October 8, 2008. After having gone through education and reform, this criminal was able to admit his crimes, obey the law, and express sincere regret for his crimes. Therefore, his sentence was reduced three times in 1995, 1998 and 2001 for a total reduction of three years and six months; after his sentence reductions, his new prison term

was set to run from October 8, 1988 to July 4, 2005. Currently serving his sentence at Shandong No. 1 Prison.

Li Xingfu (李兴福), male, 57 years old, Han nationality, prior to arrest was a farmer in Meitan County, Guizhou Province. Sentenced on September 9, 1990 to 15 years’ imprisonment (sentence to run from June 20, 1989 to June 19, 2004) with five years’ subsequent deprivation of political rights by the Zhunyi District Intermediate People’s Court for committing the crime of belonging to a counterrevolutionary group. Because he sincerely expressed regret and a willingness to reform, his sentence was reduced twice in February 1995 and July 1999 for a total of three years and six months. He was released on December 19, 2000.

Cheng You (程有), male, 53 years old, Han nationality, prior to arrest was a farmer in Lushan County, Henan Province. Sentenced on May 19, 1989 to 15 years’ imprisonment with five years’ subsequent deprivation of political rights by the Henan Province, Pingdingshan Municipal Intermediate People’s Court for committing the crime of counterrevolutionary propaganda and incitement. Released on May 17, 2000.

Gu Xinghua (顾兴华), male, 38 years old, Miao nationality, prior to arrest was a farmer in Hezhang County, Qingha District in Guizhou Province. Sentenced on September 25, 1990 to life imprisonment with deprivation of political rights for life by the Guizhou Province, Bihua

(continued on page 5)

**Notice of the Ministry of Justice Bureau of Prison Administration's
Decision to Strengthen its Supervisory Work of "Shouters" and
Other Heretical Organization Criminals While in Prison
(May 2, 1996, No. 62)**

In recent years, the activities of "Shouters" (Hu Han Pai) and other heretical organizations have been rampant in certain areas, with some heretical organizations setting up tightly-knit organizational structures. Their leaders have gone underground, and a small number of unlawful elements have broken the law and the constitution. Under the banner of religion, they spread heretical rumors, deceived the masses, and carried out all kinds of unlawful criminal activities, posing a great threat to social stability.

Recently, the Ministry of Justice launched a campaign to ban and prohibit heretical organizations in key locations, organizations which include the "Shouters," the "Universal Scope Church," the "Religion of the Spirit," the "Society of Disciples," the "Church of the New Testament," "Children of the Heavenly Father," the Damixuan Church, the "Meeting Place of the Kingdom," and the "Guanyin Buddhist Way." They arrested and sentenced a number of leaders and placed heretical organization criminals in custody in certain provincial (or district) prisons. In order to do supervisory work well, the following relevant points are given:

1. The prison administration bureaus of all districts should have sufficient understanding of the harm that criminals in heretical organizations cause to society. With their focus being to safeguard social stability, they should pay special attention to supervisory work over this type of criminal. They should consider this type of criminal an important criminal and then carry out supervision. They should also follow the spirit of the Ministry of Justice Bureau of Prison Administration's "Notice on Establishing an Important Criminals Reporting System" (No.60) issued in April 1995, and implement all aspects of the reporting system.

2. Each provincial (district or municipal) prison administration bureau should set up a special file on heretical organization crimes and appoint special people to be responsible for administration. The relevant prisons should designate cadres that have certain policies and professional standards to administer this type of criminal, should carry out particularly strict supervision and control on former principal members of heretical organizations, and should absolutely forbid them from spreading their heretical ideas in prison and engaging in illegal religious activities. If such unlawful behavior does occur, the culprits should be punished harshly according to law.

3. The investigating departments within prisons should strengthen their supervision and control over this type of criminal, develop inside information to have better control, keep these prisoners within their line of vision as much as is practical, pay close attention to their activities and their attitudes, and take strict precautions against their spreading heretical religious ideas and recruiting disciples in prison.

4. This type of criminal's illegal contact with the outside world should be cut off, strict precautions should be taken to limit their visitors, and letters sent and received by them should be carefully examined. Regarding contraband goods and documents that are mailed into the prison, the prison should register and report such incidences to the relevant prison administration bureau, and the criminals should be handled according to the appropriate regulations.

5. Contact with the local public security bureau should be improved, and when members of the public come to the prison to visit these criminals, a bulletin should be issued to the public security organ, superiors should be notified, and forceful measures for handling the situation should be quickly adopted to prevent a small number of

unlawful individuals from inciting the masses to create disturbances.

6. Attention should be paid to increasing the level of education and reform work for this type of criminal, and policies, legal systems and education program should be launched. The utmost should be done to make the majority of heretical religious criminals recognize the heretical religion's absurdity, deceptive nature, and harmfulness to society. Flexible strategies must be used to break

up these organizations, isolate the small number of stubborn individuals, and ensure that there is no longer an audience for their heretical rumors.

All localities are requested to circulate this notice to relevant prisons and to thoroughly and seriously implement its spirit.

Source: *Prison Work Handbook* (监狱工作手册), 1999, pp. 227-228.

Prisoner Information Update

(continued from page 3)

District Intermediate People's Court for committing counterrevolutionary armed rebellion. In August 1994, his sentence was reduced to 20 years with nine years' subsequent deprivation of political rights. Because he sincerely expressed regret and a willingness to reform, his sentence was reduced in June 1999 by six months. After the sentence reductions, his new release date was set for February 29, 2014. Currently serving his sentence in Guiyang Prison.

Jampel Changchub (江白强久), male, 40 years old, prior to arrest was a lama in Duilong Deqing County in the Tibetan Autonomous Region. Sentenced on January 30, 1990 to 19 years' imprisonment (sentence to run from April 8, 1989 to April 7, 2008) with five years' subsequent deprivation of political rights by the Tibetan Autonomous Region Higher People's Court for committing the crimes of espionage and belonging to a counter-revolutionary group. Currently serving his sentence in a prison in the Tibetan Autonomous Region.

Jigme Sangpo (晋美桑布) (Tanak Jigme Sangpo) male, Tibetan nationality, born in 1926, has an elementary school education and was a resident of Qushui County in the Tibetan Autonomous Region. From 1952 to 1965, he was a schoolteacher at Lhasa Municipal No. 1 and No. 3 elementary schools. In 1965, he was sentenced

to three years' reform-through-labor for inflicting corporal punishment on a student. In 1968, he was released and took up his former profession. In 1983, Jigme Sangpo committed the crime of counterrevolutionary propaganda and incitement and was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment by the Lhasa Municipal Intermediate People's Court. During his time in prison, he frequently incited minority splittist activities, for which he was given sentence extensions of five and eight years in 1988 and 1991, respectively, by the Lhasa Municipal Intermediate People's Court. His new release date is set for September 3, 2011. Currently serving his sentence in a prison in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture.

Phuntsog Nyidron (平措尼珍), lay name Tsedan, now 31 years old, resident of Linzhou in Tibet. Sentenced on November 25, 1989 to nine years' imprisonment with five years' subsequent deprivation of political rights by the Lhasa Municipal Intermediate People's Court for committing the crime of counterrevolutionary propaganda and incitement. While in prison, she became involved again in activities of inciting others to split the country and overthrow the government, for which she was given an extended sentence of a further eight years. Her new date of release was set for March 21, 2006. Because in recent years she has shown sincere regret and a willingness to reform, her sentence was reduced by one year in May 2001; her new date of release was March 21, 2005. Currently serving her sentence in a prison in the Tibetan Autonomous Region.

Case Uncovered

Excerpts from “Shouters” Cases in Zhejiang Province

For nearly 20 years, China’s public security forces have been battling an evangelical Christian group known as “The Shouters.” During the 1980s, hundreds of “Shouters” were sentenced to long terms for counterrevolution. Cheng You, one of the individuals about whom information was provided to Dui Hua by the Ministry of Justice on September 26, was a leader of “The Shouters” in Henan Province, a hot-bed of what Beijing considers “illegal religious activity.”

Another province with a long history of underground religious activity is Zhejiang. The following accounts of efforts to suppress “The Shouters” have been found in recently published public security records from Zhejiang Province. They testify to the extent and scale of “The Shouters” activities, and to the strenuous efforts made by local governments and police forces to suppress them.

Wuyi County:

In July 1983, the county people’s government issued a bulletin announcing an order to ban the “Shouters”. At that time, there was one meeting place of the “Shouters” in this county’s Baxian Hamlet outside of Jiaodao Village, one principal member, and 11 members. In August, a number of disciples filled out “Forms to Withdraw from the ‘Shouters’ Organization.”

In October 1995, a meeting of more than 50 “Shouters” was held in Wuyang Township’s Jin Village. In Taoxitan Village’s Houshe Hamlet, a meeting of 15 “Shouters” disciples was held. The county public security bureau issued a summons for the leaders of the meeting, Wu Lianyou and Yang Chunhua, and ordered them to sign a letter of regret. Legally sanctioned education was carried out on ordinary members who attended the meeting.

Cixi City:

At the beginning of 1983, [the Shouters] held three large-scale liaison meetings in Kanxi, Dianshan and Chongshou, with participants coming from Wenzhou, Jinhua, Dongyang and

Yiwu counties. From March 31 to April 2, over 400 disciples attended liaison meetings in Chongshan Commune....By July, the “Shouters” had 28 active sites throughout the county, with over 1,200 disciples participating, in 32 village townships and 84 hamlets.

At the beginning of 1988, some areas saw a resurgence. It was found through investigation that there were eight meeting places for revivalist activities, and that 300 ordinary members and 22 principal members were involved in activities in 12 village townships and on one state farm. They continued to uphold Li Changshou’s leadership and broadcast his reactionary principles....On March 10, the Cixi County people’s government issued a “Notice on the Continued Banning of the ‘Shouters’ Reactionary Organization,” and the county committee’s propaganda department reprinted its “Propaganda Outline on Revealing and Criticizing the ‘Shouters’ Use of the Christian Religion to Carry Out Illegal Criminal Activities.” The entire county launched a widespread propaganda campaign to reveal the reactionary and dangerous nature of the “Shouters.” On March 14, leader Dai Chengyao was taken into custody and the residences of ten important members were searched. Items seized included 21 reactionary books by Li Changshou. Six principal disciples were summoned and 50 ordinary members were given education. Dai Chengyao and Dai Chengguo were sentenced to 18 months’ reeducation-through-labor.

Tiantai County:

In 1983, the “Shouters” had 54 meeting places in one township, ten communes and 33 brigades, with over 1,000 active participants....On August 22, 1983, following the spirit of the Central Committee’s Document No. 18, the Tiantai County people’s government issued a “Notice on Banning the ‘Shouters’ Reactionary Organization,” detained three principal members, required all principal members to register within a certain time period, ordered that all illegal activities cease, and eliminated all 54 meeting places.

Yin County:

In the latter half of 1981, principal members of the “Shouters” from Cixi, Yuyao and Fenghua counties went to Aizhong and other places and, under the pretext of being missionaries, roped in principal members of the Christian “Little Flock Sect” (Xiao Qun Pai) in Yin County to hold “household meetings” and “communications meetings” and carried out anti-Communist, anti-Socialist activities. By May 1983, there were 13 meeting places throughout the county and 331 people were attending meetings. Of those people, 61 were males, 270 were females, and 15 were under the age of 18.

At the end of May, the county public security bureau and Huitong County religious affairs bureau did a trial ban on the “Shouters” organization in Aizhong and two other village townships. By July, the ban had spread throughout the county and by October all of the meeting places had been shut down, four head criminals were arrested, and other disciples had scattered far and wide. After July 1985, some principal members again made secret contact and revived their illegal activities in Aizhong, Yunzhou and Hengjie. In January 1988, four meeting places were banned by the county public security bureau and 115 members were given education.

Sanmen County:

On July 1, 1991, after the “Shouters” held a county-wide “communications conference” in Jiantao Township’s Xishantou Village, the organization experienced a setback when 50 people who had attended the conference were registered and underwent education by the county public security bureau, which also took in four principal members for shelter and investigation, summoned three people for education, and seized a number of reactionary books....

On May 26, 1996, in light of the “Shouters” continued activities, the county public security bureau organized a force of 140 public security cadres and government officials and launched a focused struggle to ban the “Shouters” heretical organization throughout the county.... During this campaign, 20 illegal meeting places were banned, 184 people who had attended the illegal meetings were

summoned, and 85 reactionary books were seized. Those who were summoned underwent education on the legal system and wrote letters promising not to join in illegal meetings in the future. Of those who received public security punishment, 49 principal members and stubborn individuals underwent investigation and education at a re-education camp.

Ningbo Municipality:

In 1983, according to an initial investigation, across the city there were 225 “Shouters” meeting places, 9,771 ordinary members and 353 principal members....In August, the Ningbo Municipal people’s government issued a “Notice on Banning the ‘Shouters’ Reactionary Organization” and banned “Shouters” meeting places. By the end of 1983, 8,617 members citywide had registered and withdrawn from the organization, and 63 leaders had been handled according to law....

In 1988, when it was discovered that “Shouters” activities had surfaced in certain areas, the entire city continued its focused struggle to ban the “Shouters.” Fourteen people were taken in for shelter and investigation, 112 people were summoned for investigation, one person was arrested, seven were sentenced to reeducation-through-labor, one was detained by public security, and 124 principal disciples attended study classes on the legal system....

In the early 1990s, the public security organ worked together with relevant departments to adopt political, ideological, legal and economic measures to handle and put a stop to the “Shouters” reactionary organization’s activities.... In April 1992, Xiangshan County launched a large-scale attack against the “Shouters” and distributed 5,000 informational materials, broadcast over 230 speeches on television, post 15,000 notices to ban the “Shouters,” banned 63 meeting places, and held 70 classes on the legal system for 1,118 disciples. In addition, 1,769 disciples announced they were leaving the “Shouters” organization, and 82 leaders were punished according to law.

In March 1993, the Ningbo County Public Security Bureau captured over 300 “Shouters” disciples who were attending a “communications conference” and took in for shelter and investigation two “Shouters” leaders from Wenzhou City who were giving speeches.

US and China Resume Rights Dialogue

The United States and China held a three-day session of the government-to-government dialogue on human rights in Washington from October 9 to October 11, 2001. The session was the first formal exchange of views in this area since January 1999. China suspended the dialogue in response to the NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade in May 1999.

The Chinese team to the Washington talks was led by Li Baodong, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of International Organizations and Conferences. The 10-man delegation included senior representatives of China's Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Justice, Supreme People's Court and Religious Affairs Bureau. The US side in the talks was led by Lorne Craner, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

The two sides exchanged views on a number of issues of concern, including treatment of individuals detained for national security offenses, religious freedom and international monitoring of human rights. Information was exchanged on specific cases of concern. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the talks. China's Foreign Ministry spokesman called the talks "sincere and constructive."

The Chinese delegation met with senior members of the Bush administration and the US Congress. They also visited an AIDS hospice, a legal aid center and the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. A special session was held with members of the International Religious Freedom Commission.

The next session of the official dialogue on human rights will take place in Beijing during the first half of 2002.

Dialogue is written by the staff of The Dui Hua Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the protection of universally recognized human rights in China and the United States.

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