

Refugee Review Tribunal

AUSTRALIA

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

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This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

Question

Please provide any information about the “Democratic Party” (or similar name).

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Government Information & Reports

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada http://www.irb.gc.ca/cgi-bin/foliocgi.exe/refinfo_e

UK Home Office <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>

US Department of State <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>

United Nations (UN)

UNHCR <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>

Non-Government Organisations

Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org/>

International News & Politics

BBC News <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

Boxun News <http://www.peacehall.com/>

CBS News <http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/home/main100.shtml>

Epoch Times <http://english.epochtimes.com/index12.html>

Los Angeles Times <http://www.latimes.com/>

NewsMax <http://www.newsmax.com/>

Region Specific Links

Chinese Democratic Party Overseas Exile Branch <http://www.cdp1998.org/>

Free China Movement <http://www.freechina.net/2005/index.htm>

Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy <http://www.hkhkhk.com/>

UK Branch of China Democracy Party <http://www.ukcdp.co.uk/>

Search Engines

Google <http://www.google.com.au/>

UNHCR *REFWORLD* UNHCR Refugee Information Online

Databases:

Public	<i>FACTIVA</i>	Reuters Business Briefing
DIMIA	<i>BACIS</i>	Country Information
	<i>REFINFO</i>	IRBDC Research Responses (Canada)
RRT	<i>ISYS</i>	RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State <i>Country Reports on Human Rights Practices</i> .
RRT Library	<i>FIRST</i>	RRT Library Catalogue

RESPONSE

Please provide any information about the “Democratic Party” (or similar name).

The China Democracy Party (CDP) sometimes referred to as the Chinese Democracy Party, China Democratic Party and Chinese Democratic Party was formed on 25 June 1998 when Wang Youcai attempted to register the party in Hangzhou, Zhejiang. The CDP was a loosely organised group of veteran dissidents and pro democracy activists. The Government cracked down heavily on the CDP during 1998 and 1999 until the CDP was effectively silenced. In 2005, the CDP remains a banned organisation and the Chinese Government continues to surveil, detain and imprison current and former CDP members.

A Human Rights Watch report dated September 2000 provides extensive information on the CDP. The report “documents the emergence and suppression of the CDP.” The following extract is a brief summary of the report. For more detailed information on the founding of the party and the Chinese Government’s response to the CDP please refer directly to the report:

The China Democracy Party (CDP), a loosely linked group of political activists, operating nationwide, emerged in mid-1998. It was significant because it was the first time since the establishment of the People’s Republic of China in 1949 that an attempt was made to obtain the formal legal registration of an opposition political party. Over the next eighteen months, however, it was systematically crushed. Known members of the CDP were summarily arrested and detained, and though most were held for relatively brief periods, at least thirty-four of them were sentenced to prison terms of up to thirteen years on charges of attempted subversion. At least four others fled into exile abroad. Others, who remain in China but are not in prison, live under close police surveillance and have ceased to be openly active.

The CDP called for multiparty democracy in China and respect for human rights.

...Three of the group’s founders, Wang Youcai, Wang Donghai and Lin Hui, seized the opportunity presented by U.S. President Bill Clinton’s state visit to China in June 1998 to announce the formation of the CDP’s first local preparatory committee in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province. Then, taking advantage of the relatively relaxed political atmosphere at the time, CDP activists sought to register preparatory committees in other provinces.

...At first, local authorities to whom CDP members applied to register their preparatory committees appear to have been uncertain how to react. But when the CDP announced that it planned to create a national structure, the central government, led by National People's Congress chairman Li Peng and President Jiang Zemin, denounced the fledgling party, and CDP leaders were arrested and imprisoned. The first wave of arrests took place in November and December 1998, but neither it nor a subsequent series of arrests in May 1999 deterred the remaining CDP members from continuing their efforts to build the party, issue public statements, or hold discussion groups. It was only in late 1999 that the CDP was effectively silenced.

CDP members stressed during their efforts to obtain legal recognition that they were seeking to do so in accordance with existing laws. In the absence of regulations specifically governing the registration of political parties, they sought to register with the relevant provincial branches of the Civil Affairs Ministry in view of its responsibility for the registration of "social groups." They also invoked the Chinese constitution and official regulations on social groups issued in October 1989 and pointed to China's stated commitment to the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Finally, when all else had failed, they tried to go directly to the State Council, China's equivalent of an executive cabinet, to register. The end result, however, was that the embryonic party was declared an "illegal organization."

The main regulation used to try and sentence CDP leaders was Article 105 of the 1997 Penal Code, which penalizes "those involved in organizing, scheming or acting to subvert the political power of the state and overthrow the socialist system" (Human Rights Watch 2000, *China Nipped in the Bud: The Suppression of the China Democracy Party*, September, Vol. 12, No. 5 – Attachment 1).

A number of RRT Research Responses provide information on the CDP.

- RRT Research Response CHN13422 dated 16 February 1999 provides background information on the CDP, information on who the Chinese Government is targeting and information on those awaiting trial (RRT Country Research 1999, *Research Response CHN13422*, 16 February – Attachment 2);
- RRT Research Response CHN13478 dated 19 March 1999 provides information on the establishment of the CDP as well as information on the arrests of Wang and other CDP leaders (RRT Country Research 1999, *Research Response CHN13478*, 19 March – Attachment 3);
- RRT Research Response CHN13861 dated 15 November 1999 provides information on the crackdown on the CDP, sentencing of CDP leaders and membership of the CDP (RRT Country Research 1999, *Research Response CHN13861*, 15 November – Attachment 4);
- Question 4 of RRT Research Response CHN14129 dated 22 May 2000 provides information on the monitoring by the Chinese Government of the pro-democracy movement including the CDP (RRT Country Research 2000, *Research Response CHN14129*, 22 May – Attachment 5); and
- RRT Research Response CHN14456 dated 8 January 2001 provides background information on the CDP and information on the Chinese Government's treatment of CDP members (RRT Country Research 2001, *Research Response CHN14456*, 8 January – Attachment 6).

According to the US Department of State *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2003 – China* the campaign against the CDP continued during 2003 with the Chinese Government using “surveillance, detention, and prison terms to suppress the CDP”:

Adequate, timely medical care for prisoners continued to be a serious problem, despite official assurances that prisoners have the right to prompt medical treatment if they become ill. Political prisoners continued to have difficulties in obtaining medical treatment, despite repeated appeals on their behalf by their families and the international community. Those with health concerns included China Democracy Party (CDP) co-founders Qin Yongmin and Wang Youcai;

...The campaign that began in 1998 against the China Democracy Party (CDP), an opposition party, continued during the year. Dozens of CDP leaders, activists, and members have been arrested, detained, or confined as a result of this campaign. Since December 1998, at least 38 core leaders of the CDP have been given severe punishments on subversion charges. Xu Wenli, Wang Youcai, and Qin Yongmin were sentenced in 1998 to prison terms of 13, 12, and 11 years respectively. While Xu Wenli was released on medical parole to the United States in December 2002, Wang and Qin remained in prison. In March, Shanghai CDP leader Han Lifa was detained reportedly for “soliciting prostitutes,” a charge used in the past to discredit dissidents. He was sentenced to 3 years’ reeducation through labor. Immediately before and after the 16th Party Congress in November 2002, authorities rounded up a number of the 192 activists, many of whom were members of the CDP, in 17 provinces who had signed an open letter calling for political reform and a reappraisal of the official verdict on the 1989 Tiananmen massacre. Among those detained or sentenced to prison terms on subversion charges during the year in connection with the open letter were lawyer Zhao Changqing, He Depu, Sang Jiancheng, Ouyang Yi, Dai Xuezhong, and Jiang Lijun.

...The Government also released a few other political prisoners after granting them sentence reductions... However, CDP co-founders Wang Youcai and Qin Yongmin...remained imprisoned or under other forms of detention during the year. Political prisoners generally benefited from parole and sentence reduction at significantly lower rates than ordinary prisoners.

...No laws or regulations specifically govern the formation of political parties. The Government continued to use surveillance, detention, and prison terms to suppress the CDP (see Section 3).

...The CCP retained a tight rein on political decision-making and forbade the creation of new political parties. The Government continued efforts to suppress the CDP, an opposition party that had attracted hundreds of members nationwide within a few months of its founding in 1998. Public security forces had previously arrested nearly all of the CDP’s leaders: Xu Wenli, Wang Youcai, and Qin Yongmin were sentenced in 1998 to prison terms of 13, 12, and 11 years respectively. Xu Wenli was released on medical parole to the United States in December 2002, but Wang and Qin remained in prison. At the time of the 16th Party Congress in November 2002, authorities targeted many remaining activists for signing an open letter calling for political reform and a reappraisal of the official verdict on the 1989 Tiananmen massacre (see Section 1.d.) (US Department of State 2004, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2003 – China (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, and Macau)*, 25 February, Sections 1c, 1d, 1e, 2b & 3 – Attachment 7).

An article dated 9 May 2003 by *Xinhua News Agency* reports that the Liaoning Liaoyang City Intermediate People’s Court found Yao Fuxin and Xiao Yunliang guilty of “subverting the political power of the state” for their active involvement in the organisation and planning of a CDP provincial branch in Liaoning. Yao Fuxin was sentenced to seven years in prison with

three years deprivation of political rights while Xiao Yunliang was sentenced to four years in prison with two years deprivation of political rights ('Two China Democratic Party members jailed for subversion' 2003, *Xinhua News Agency*, 9 May – Attachment 8).

The US Department of State *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2003 – China* reports that Yao Fuxin and Xiao Yunliang were leaders of a large labour protest in Liaoyang City with many observers believing “that the sentences were largely in retaliation for their role in the labor protests” (US Department of State 2004, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2003 – China (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, and Macau)*, 25 February, Section 6a – Attachment 7).

An article dated 24 October 2003 by *Associated Press* reports that Yao Fuxin and Xiao Yunliang are being “systematically mistreated in prison” and their health has “deteriorated rapidly” (Anthony, Ted 2003, ‘Rights groups: Convicted labor activists health has “deteriorated rapidly” in prison’, *Associated Press*, 24 October – Attachment 9). The US Department of State *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2004 – China* reports that Yao Fuxin and Xiao Yunliang were still in prison at the end of 2004 having been denied medical parole (US Department of State 2005, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2003 – China (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, and Macau)*, 28 February, Section 6a – Attachment 10).

According to an Amnesty International report dated 28 January 2004 11 of the 54 people in prison for internet activism have links to the CDP. The following table provides information on the 11 people as extracted from the report:

Name	Detained	Accusation	Tried	Sentence	Notes
He Depu 何德普	11/02	“Incitement to subvert state power”	14/10/2003	8 yrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published pro-democracy articles on the Internet. Member of the China Democracy Party. Ill-treated and in poor health.
Kong Youping 孔佑平	12/03				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posted articles and poems on an overseas website calling for an end to corruption and reassessment of 1989 pro-democracy movement, and called for the release of Liu Di. Member of China Democracy Party.
Liu Haofeng 刘浩锋	03/01	“Endangering state security”		Sentenced 05/01 to 3 yrs re-education through labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrote two articles that appeared on China Democracy Party website based in California. Member of the China Democracy Party.
Lü Xinhua 吕新华	03/01	Subversion	18/09/2001	4 yrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posted articles on the Internet about corrupt village officials. Member of the China

					Democracy Party.
Mao Qingxiang* 毛庆祥	06/99	Subversion	25/10/1999	8 yrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published a magazine called <i>Opposition Party</i> and distributed pro-democracy writings online to groups overseas. Was transferred to a hospital in December 2002 after his health deteriorated in prison. Member of the China Democracy Party.
Ouyang Yi 欧阳懿	12/02	“Incitement to subvert state power”	16/10/2003		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created a pro-democracy website and signed a petition addressed to the 16th Communist Party Congress that was later posted on the Internet, calling for democracy. Member of the China Democracy Party. The sentencing of Ouyang Yi has been postponed due to lack of evidence against him.
Wang Jinbo 王金波	03/01	“Incitement to subvert state power”	14/11/2001	4 yrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emailed articles to overseas organizations calling for a re-evaluation of the 1989 Tiananmen protests and the release of political prisoners in China. Member of the China Democracy Party. Tortured and ill-treated.
Wang Sen 王森	04/01	Subversion	30/05/2002	10 yrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detained after posting on the Internet an allegation that a local medical centre sold Red Cross donated medicine on inflated prices. Formally convicted and sentenced for organizing workers protest in December 2000. Member of the China Democracy Party.
Wu Yilong* 吴义龙	06/99	Subversion	25/10/1999	11 yrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published a magazine called <i>Opposition Party</i> and distributed pro-democracy materials online to groups overseas. Member of the China Democracy Party.
Xu Guang*	06/99	Subversion	25/10/1999	5 yrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published a magazine called <i>Opposition Party</i> and distributed pro-

徐光					<p>democracy materials online to groups overseas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the China Democracy Party.
Zhu Yufu* 朱虞夫	03/99	Subversion	25/10/1999	7 yrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posted “harmful information” on a internet chatroom. • Published a magazine called <i>Opposition Party</i> and distributed pro-democracy materials online to groups overseas. • Member of the China Democracy Party.

* Mao Qingxiang, Wu Yilong, Xu Guang and Zhu Yufu were tried together (Amnesty International 2004, *People’s Republic of China Controls tighten as Internet activism grows*, 28 January, ASA 17/001/2004 – Attachment 11).

2004

According to the US Department of State *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2004 – China* the Chinese Government continued “to surveil, detain, and imprison current and former CDP members” during 2004:

Xu Guang, a former CDP member released from prison in September, stated that he was beaten and placed in a metal cage for 2 months after he commemorated the anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen massacre while in Qiaoci Prison in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province.

...The campaign that began in 1998 against the China Democracy Party (CDP), an opposition party, continued during the year. Dozens of CDP leaders, activists, and members have been arrested, detained, or confined as a result of this campaign. Since December 1998, over 40 core leaders of the CDP have been given severe punishments on subversion charges. Xu Wenli, Wang Youcai, and Qin Yongmin were sentenced in 1998 to prison terms of 13, 12, and 11 years, respectively. Xu Wenli and Wang Youcai were released on medical parole to the United States in December 2002 and March 2004, respectively. Qin remained in prison at year’s end. During the year, Sang Jiancheng was sentenced to a 3-year prison term in connection with an open letter calling for political reform and a reappraisal of the official verdict on the 1989 Tiananmen massacre signed by 192 activists, including former CDP members, prior to the 16th Party Congress in November 2002. Internet writer Ouyang Yi, one of the signers of the open letter, was released after serving a 2-year prison sentence in December, but other signers of the letter remained jailed.

...The authorities granted early release from prison to...CDP co-founder Wang Youcai in March. ...Many others, including...CDP co-founder Qin Yongmin...remained imprisoned or under other forms of detention during the year. Political prisoners generally benefited from parole and sentence reduction at significantly lower rates than ordinary prisoners.

...Several individuals were jailed for their Internet publications during the year. ...In September, Shenyang Internet writers Kong Youping and Ning Xianhua were sentenced, respectively, to 15 and 12 years in prison on charges of “subversion of state power” for posting articles and poems in support of the CDP.

...No laws or regulations specifically govern the formation of political parties. But the China Democracy Party (CDP) remained banned, and the Government continued to surveil, detain, and imprison current and former CDP members (see Section 3).

...The CCP retained a monopoly on political power and forbade the creation of new political parties. The Government continued efforts to suppress the China Democracy Party (CDP), an opposition party that had attracted hundreds of members nationwide within a few months of its founding in 1998. Public security forces had previously arrested nearly all of the CDP's leaders: Xu Wenli, Wang Youcai, and Qin Yongmin were sentenced in 1998 to prison terms of 13, 12, and 11 years, respectively. Xu Wenli and Wang Youcai were released on medical parole to the United States in December 2002 and March 2004, respectively, but Qin remained in prison. At the time of the 16th Party Congress in 2002, authorities targeted many remaining activists for signing an open letter calling for political reform and a reappraisal of the official verdict on the 1989 Tiananmen massacre (see Section 1.d.). More than 40 current or former CDP members remained imprisoned or held in reeducation-through-labor camps during the year, including Zhao Changqing, Sang Jiancheng, He Depu, Yao Zhenxiang, Han Lifa, Dai Xuezhong, and Jiang Lijun. In December, Zhejiang and Jiangsu Province activists were interrogated and a few, including Yang Tianshui and Wang Rongqing, were detained after they publicly proposed that the NPC [National People's Congress] draft a political party law (US Department of State 2005, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2004 – China (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, and Macau)*, 28 February, Sections 1c, 1d, 1e, 2a, 2b & 3 – Attachment 10).

A 2005 Freedom House report, covering the events of 2004, reports that there is one opposition party in China, the CDP “but the government suppresses its activities and it exists, for all practical purposes, in theory only” (Freedom House 2005, ‘China’, *The Worst of the Worst: The World's Most Repressive Societies 2005*, 31 March, p.19 – Attachment 12).

An article dated 9 March 2004 in *The Providence Journal* reports that Wang Youcai, the first person to register to vote for the CDP, was released after six years as a political prisoner in China. The following information relates to his treatment in prison:

Wang described his imprisonment and frequent “indoctrination sessions,” which he said he resisted. Prison officials forbade English, recorded his conversations, and restricted the inmates’ reading materials, he said.

The prison “used different institutional mechanisms to control his thoughts. And though to be put in prison was bad enough, to control his thoughts and what he can say is even too unbearable,” said Baksa [Interpreter].

Wang resisted these indoctrination attempts, “and said in no way would he change his viewpoint.” Every time Wang spoke, said Baksa, “they recorded everything he said.” Wang said he was not physically abused (Ziner, Karen Lee 2004, ‘Dissident savors freedom after his unexpected release’, *Providence Journal*, 9 March – Attachment 13).

According to a World Organisation Against Torture report, cited in an Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada response dated 29 March 2004, “people calling for human rights improvements” including members of the CDP “are systematically silenced”:

This legislative framework restricts excessively freedom of association. In practice, people calling for human rights improvements, ranging from members of the China Democratic Party to Falun Gong practitioners, are systematically silenced. Efforts to organise independently, whether around issues of politics, religion, labour or human rights are ruthlessly repressed

(Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2004, CHN42463.E – *China: Information regarding a week-long sit-in in front of the Attorney General's Office in Qinghai; consequences for such an action (April 2002)*, 29 March – Attachment 14).

An article dated 14 April 2004 in *The Epoch Times* reports that a group of activists from the outlawed CDP issued a letter to US Vice President Cheney and his Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong claiming that “jailed members of the CDP are not getting cared for properly, have become ill with all kinds of diseases, don’t get enough to eat, and are even ill-treated and beaten”:

The letter also listed 16 CDP members serving jail terms of up to 20 years, and another group of political prisoners awaiting trial. Among the signatories were leading pro-democracy activists Ren Wandong and Xu Wanping.

“The crackdown on the CDP proves that our nation’s most cherished political freedom is the freedom of association and the freedom to form political parties,” the letter said. “There is no power in China that can stop the voice of freedom and democracy.”

Some dissidents and their families had their mobility restricted or were summoned for questioning before Cheney’s visit, sources said (‘Chinese Dissidents Suffering in Jail, Group Tells Cheney’ 2004, *Epoch Times*, source: *Radio Free Asia*, 14 April <http://english.epochtimes.com/news/4-4-14/20915.html> – Accessed 20 September 2005 – Attachment 15).

An article dated 15 September 2004 by *Agence France Presse* reports that CDP founding member Xu Guang has been released from prison after serving his full five year sentence. Guang complained that he was repeatedly beaten and put in a metal cage for two months after commemorating the 4 June 1989 crackdown on democracy protesters. According to the Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy 32 CDP members remain in prison (‘Key China Democracy Party founding member released from jail’ 2005, *Agence France Presse*, 15 September, Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy website <http://www.hkhkhk.com/engpro/messages/1982.html> – Accessed 20 September 2005 – Attachment 16).

An article dated 16 September 2004 by *Agence France Presse* reports CDP member Kong Youping was sentenced to 15 years prison for “subversion of state power” after he posted his political views on the Internet. CDP member Ning Xianhua was also sentenced to 12 years in prison:

Kong and Ning were leading local members of the China Democracy Party

...Despite their relatively junior positions in the party, which was banned almost immediately, their sentences are remarkable for their severity, the rights group [Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy] said.

Kong’s sentence is longer even than that of the China Democracy Party’s most famous member, co-founder Xu Wenli. He received a 13-year term but was released early in 2002 and allowed to leave the country.

The center said Kong and Ning, both former union activists, may have been dealt with harshly because of the vehemence of labor disputes in China’s northeastern rustbelt (‘Chinese court passes longest jail term yet for democracy member’ 2004, *Agence France Presse*, 16 September – Attachment 17).

According to the Caring for China Center the Overseas Exiles Headquarters of the CDP was formally established in Providence, Rhode Island USA on 3 December 2004 ('Chinese Democratic Party's Overseas Exiles Headquarters Established' 2004, *Caring for China Center News*, 3 December 2004, Free China Movement website www.freechina.net/2004/news/00098.htm – Accessed 20 September 2005 – Attachment 18).

An article dated 8 December 2004 in *NewsMax Wires* reports that CDP member Ouyang Yi was released from prison "after serving a two year sentence for setting up a pro-democracy Web site". Yi is "being kept under police surveillance and is banned from publishing for two years" ('Report: China Releases Internet Dissident' 2004, *NewsMax Wires*, 8 December <http://www.newsmax.com/archives/articles/2004/12/7/214011.shtml> – Accessed 20 September 2005 – Attachment 19).

An article dated 31 December 2004 in *Ping Kuo Jih Pao (Apple Daily)* reports that a dozen core members of the Zhejiang Preparatory Committee for the CDP were "caught or summoned for interrogation by public security authorities" for submitting to the NPC a draft of the Political Party Law of China:

The whereabouts of Wang Rongqing, the principal drafter of the draft, have been unknown up to now. This is the Chinese authorities' largest operation to arrest dissidents, following their restoration of order among intellectuals ('China Democracy Party's key members arrested in Zhejiang' 2004, *BBC Monitoring Online*, source: *Ping Kuo Jih Pao*, 31 December – Attachment 20).

2005

An article dated 30 January 2005 by *Associated Press* reports that CDP member Li Guotao disappeared on 19 January on his way from Shanghai to Beijing to commemorate the death of ousted Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang (Ang, Audra 2005, 'One day after ousted Chinese leader's cremation, security on dissidents remains tight', *Associated Press*, 30 January – Attachment 21).

An article dated 28 May 2005 in *Ping Kuo Jih Pao (Apple Daily)* reports that Chen Xi was released from prison after serving his ten year sentence for organising the Guizhou branch of the CDP. The article also reports that Xu Wanping who has served more than 10 years for "participating in the democracy movement in 1989" and for organising the CDP was arrested "under suspicion of subverting the authority of the state" ('Chinese police detain dissidents before Tiananmen anniversary – paper' 2005, *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific*, source: *Ping Kuo Jih Pao*, 29 May – Attachment 22).

An article dated 14 June 2005 by *CBS News* reports that a Google search for the CDP in China leads to a "site cannot be found" message ("Freedom" Blocked In Chinese Blogs' 2005, *CBS News*, 14 June <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/06/14/world/main701823.shtml> & http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/06/14/world/main701823_page2.shtml – Accessed 20 September 2005 – Attachment 23).

An open letter, dated 31 August 2005, to the Chinese President Hu Jintao signed by scholars and activists of the democracy movement living in North America and activists who were

involved in the 1998 CDP registering campaign provides an incomplete list of the CDP prisoners who remain in Chinese prisons:

KONG Youping, sentenced to 15-year imprisonment; LI Zuo, sentenced to 15-year imprisonment; LIU Yusheng, sentenced to 14-year imprisonment; Liu Xianbin, sentenced to 13-year imprisonment; QIN Yongmin, sentenced to 12-year imprisonment; SHE Wanbao, sentenced to 12-year imprisonment; NING Xianhua, sentenced to 12-year imprisonment; WU Yilong, sentenced to 11-year imprisonment; HU Mingjun, sentenced to 11-year imprisonment; LI Dawei, sentenced to 11-year imprisonment; ZHU Zhengming, sentenced to 10-year imprisonment; TONG Shidong, sentenced to 10-year imprisonment; CHEN Zhonghe, sentenced to 10-year imprisonment; WANG Sen, sentenced to 10-year imprisonment; ZHA Jianguo, sentenced to 9-year imprisonment; YANG Zili, sentenced to 8-year imprisonment; YUE Tianxiang, sentenced to 8-year imprisonment; MAO Qingxiang, sentenced to 8-year imprisonment; GAO Hongming, sentenced to 8-year imprisonment; HE Depu, sentenced to 8-year imprisonment; ZHU Yufu, sentenced to 7-year imprisonment; XIAO Shichang, sentenced to 7-year imprisonment; LIU Shizun, sentenced to 6-year imprisonment; GUO Chengming, measure of punishment unclear; GUO Xinmin, measure of punishment unclear; YU Feng, measure of punishment unclear; ZHANG Youju, measure of punishment unclear; LIU Jin, measure of punishment unclear; ZHANG Jian, measure of punishment unclear; ('An Open Letter to Hu Jintao' 2005, *Boxun News*, 31 August <http://www.peacehall.com/news/gb/english/2005/08/200508310205.shtml> – Accessed 20 September 2005 – Attachment 24).

An article dated 12 September 2005 in *The Taipei Times* reports that Chen Rongli who “fled to Taiwan last January after serving an eight-year prison sentence for helping form the Chinese Democracy Party in Jiangsu Province, China” has been “waiting for over a year...to be granted asylum from one of several democratic countries they’ve applied to, including the US, the UK and Taiwan” (Hsiu-Chuan, Shih 2005, ‘Nations shut door to dissidents; IN LIMBO: Two Chinese dissidents are waiting in Taiwan to be granted asylum in a third country. The government here, meanwhile, will only grant them temporary visas’, *Taipei Times*, 12 September – Attachment 25).

An article dated 18 September 2005 in *The Los Angeles Times* reports that Liu Shizun was released from prison after serving six years for helping set up CDP branches in Beijing, Tianjin and Dalian (‘Jailed Chinese Dissident Released’ 2005, *Los Angeles Times*, 18 September <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-dissident18sep18,1,869568.story?ctrack=1&cset=true> – Accessed 20 September 2005 – Attachment 26).

List of Attachments

1. Human Rights Watch 2000, *China Nipped in the Bud: The Suppression of the China Democracy Party*, September, Vol. 12, No. 5.
2. RRT Country Research 1999, *Research Response CHN13422*, 16 February.
3. RRT Country Research 1999, *Research Response CHN13478*, 19 March.
4. RRT Country Research 1999, *Research Response CHN13861*, 15 November.
5. RRT Country Research 2000, *Research Response CHN14129*, 22 May.

6. RRT Country Research 2001, *Research Response CHN14456*, 8 January.
7. US Department of State 2004, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2003 – China (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, and Macau)*, 25 February.
8. ‘Two China Democratic Party members jailed for subversion’ 2003, *Xinhua News Agency*, 9 May. (CISNET People’s Republic of China CX78348)
9. Anthony, Ted 2003, ‘Rights groups: Convicted labor activists health has “deteriorated rapidly” in prison’, *Associated Press*, 24 October. (FACTIVA)
10. US Department of State 2005, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2004 – China (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, and Macau)*, 28 February.
11. Amnesty International 2004, *People’s Republic of China Controls tighten as Internet activism grows*, 28 January, ASA 17/001/2004.
12. Freedom House 2005, ‘China’, *The Worst of the Worst: The World’s Most Repressive Societies 2005*, 31 March, pp.19-23.
13. Ziner, Karen Lee 2004, ‘Dissident savors freedom after his unexpected release’, *Providence Journal*, 9 March.(FACTIVA)
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