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PRESS RELEASE

China: New Global Effort to Free Liu Xiaobo

- *More than 450,000 citizens in 130 countries join 134 Nobel laureates in demanding China's new leader release Liu, the only imprisoned Nobel laureate*
- *Supporters of Liu Xiaobo and his wife Liu Xia deliver petition to Chinese embassies across the world*

HONG KONG, PARIS, WASHINGTON, DC, 27th February 2013 – In a campaign led by the International Committee for Liu Xiaobo with the support of Amnesty International, petitions signed by hundreds of thousands of people around the world were delivered today to Chinese embassies to demand the immediate release of imprisoned Nobel Laureate Liu Xiaobo and Liu Xia. The petitions are part of a campaign [created by Archbishop Desmond Tutu on Change.org](#).

The campaign was launched in solidarity with a letter signed by 135 Nobel laureates demanding Liu's freedom. More than 450,000 people from 130 countries signed the petition that was delivered to Chinese authorities in Hong Kong, Taipei, Paris, London, New York, and Washington DC.

“Today, 450,000 petitions were delivered to Chinese authorities in Hong Kong, Paris, Washington, and other cities.” said Archbishop Tutu, who started the petition demanding freedom for his fellow Nobel Laureate Liu. “These petitions represent the voices of people around the globe imploring the new Chinese government to release Liu Xiaobo and his wife Liu Xia. We hope this will show China that the world supports their willingness to hear the voices of their people.”

Liu Xiaobo has been detained since December 2008, and his wife has been under house arrest since October 2010. The Nobel Laureate is serving an 11-year sentence for “inciting subversion of state power” for his part as the leading author behind “Charter ‘08”, a manifesto calling for the respect of fundamental human rights in China.

From Hong Kong to Washington, supporters took symbolic photographs of themselves in front of local landmarks, with a picture of Liu on an empty chair to highlight his imprisonment, before delivering the petition.

“It is wonderful to see such a massive and genuine outpouring of support for Liu Xiaobo and Liu Xia,” said Jared Genser, the founder of Freedom Now—a member organization of the International Committee for Liu Xiaobo—and international pro bono counsel to the Lius. “Clearly, the citizens’ movement lead by Archbishop Tutu speaks with one voice when it calls for the immediate release of the Lius. We urge the Chinese government to heed this moral imperative.”

Since the launch of the campaign in December last year, every new signature to the petition on Change.org has sent an email to officials in Chinese consulates and embassies around the world.

“Liu Xiaobo and Liu Xia represent the hopes and aspirations of millions of Chinese who are currently silenced. This show of solidarity from people all over the world sends a powerful message to the Chinese government to free this courageous couple and all other prisoners of conscience,” said Salil Shetty, Secretary General of Amnesty International.

LINK TO PHOTOS: <http://storify.com/agneschangeorg/free-liu-xiaobo-and-liu-xia-intl-petition-deliveri-1>

Live signature totals from Archbishop Tutu’s campaign:

<https://www.change.org/petitions/chinese-leader-xi-jinping-release-imprisoned-nobel-peace-prize-winner-liu-xiaobo-and-wife-liu-xia>

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Change.org is the world's largest petition platform, empowering people everywhere to create the change they want to see. There are more than 30 million users in 196 countries who use our tools to transform their communities – locally, nationally and globally.

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