

Dr. Liu Xiaobo (m)

Adoption Status: Not Adopted

Country: China

Occupation: Chinese scholar and democracy activist.

Detained Since: December 8, 2008

Charges: “Inciting subversion”

Sentence: 11 years in prison and two years’ deprivation of political rights.

Additional: The Chinese government previously detained Dr. Liu for his peaceful activities on three occasions, including during the crackdown following the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests. In 2008, Dr. Liu was one of the primary drafters of Charter 08, a political manifesto that calls for peaceful democratic reform and respect for the rule of law and human rights in China. The Chinese government detained Dr. Liu on December 8, 2008—two days before the official release of Charter ‘08.

On December 23, 2009, Dr. Liu was tried for “inciting subversion.” His wife along with foreign diplomats and journalists were not allowed to attend the trial. The proceeding lasted only two hours and the court limited Dr. Liu’s lawyers to 14 minutes in which to defend against the charges. In the verdict, Dr. Liu’s participation in the production of pro-democracy essays, including Charter 08, was cited as evidence against him.

Dr. Liu Xiaobo was awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize “in recognition of his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.”



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