

The Eye on Abortion

July 2006



CHINA: HOME OF GENDER SELECTION AND FORCED ABORTION

Dear Pro-life Friends,

With how bad the abortion problem is in America, it could be worse...much worse. In light of the fact that we recently celebrated the Fourth of July, I think it would be fitting if we take a moment to reflect on how thankful we should be for the rights we currently enjoy in this country (the "right" to abortion, of course, *not* being one of them!).

THE PLIGHT OF THE CHINESE



The oppression in China concerning abortion is so severe that it baffles the mind. The country introduced population control policies after the World War II baby boom that restricts couples to bearing only one child. Women who become pregnant a second time are often forced to have abortions, fined, imprisoned, and face intense persecution.

Chinese culture particularly favors boys over girls, especially in rural areas where couples want to pass on family farms to their sons.

Therefore, couples often seek ways to discover the gender of their child, in order to ensure that it will be a boy. If it is a girl, many times they seek abortions. If abortion is not accomplished, couples choose other options, including infanticide or selling their female child. **Chinese officials have uncovered massive baby-selling schemes, even finding newborns in bags in the back of trucks and on buses on their way to be sold.** Some impoverished parents sell their unwanted babies for a meager \$8.

Chinese officials have been attempting to crack down on gender selection abortions, as the male population is beginning to outweigh the female population at a rate of 120 men for every 100 women, according to the latest Chinese census. But new laws in place restricting gender-selection abortions are fairly easy to get around. A black market has arisen, consisting of individuals with ultrasound machines in the trunks of cars or inside house closets, willing to disclose the sex of an unborn child for a fee.

The gender imbalance has also led to some severe societal problems as well, due to Chinese men now seeking wives, but finding a vast shortage. **It is estimated that by 2020 there could be more than 35 million young 'surplus males' in China who will be unable to find girlfriends or wives.** Prostitution, crime, kidnapping of teenagers, young adults being forced into marriage, and substantial sex trafficking are running rampant as a result.

FORCED TO ABORT HER TWINS, WOMAN DIES IN PROCESS

On June 22, 2006, 18 people from the Tongling Road Family Planning Office forcibly took a Chinese woman, who was pregnant with twins, from her home. They brought her to the Hefei Shuguang Hospital in order to force her to receive an abortion because she already had one child when she became pregnant a second time.

In an effort to escape, Li fell to her death from Shuguang Hospital's second floor after arguing and struggling with family planning officials. According to the Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Hong Kong, Li may have been attacked while she was in detention before the attempted abortion, as large bruises were found on her body.

"The Information Center believes that Li Shimei's case reflects the gross violations of human rights inherent in the enforcement of China's family planning policy," the group said in a statement. "Detaining Li Shimei in that fashion violates the Chinese Constitution, while forcing her to accept an abortion while seven months pregnant with twins violates human decency."



INHUMANE TREATMENT

LifeNews recently reported the following story of a Chinese woman who suffered the horror of having her child violently killed within her womb.

Recently in Zhengzhou, China, family planning officials carried out a forced abortion on **Wang Liping**, who did not have the necessary permit to have a child.

A 25 year-old unmarried woman, Wang was seven months pregnant when staff members from the local government family planning office forcibly took her to a family planning clinic to do the abortion. First, the officials took Wang to a town clinic, then an air force clinic and then a third facility. All three refused to do the abortion but a fourth clinic eventually agreed to abort Wang's pregnancy and kill her seven-month old unborn baby.

Doctors and nurses at the Laoyachen Clinic pushed her to the ground and held her arms. As she screamed for help, they beat her and removed her pants and injected a drug into her abdomen. They took Wang to another room and tied her to a bed. Wang said, "I was both shocked and scared, and lost all strength to fight back. My calls for help were unanswered. I could not believe such a brutal, horrid thing was happening to me." **Four hours later, Wang gave birth to the baby with no staff around to help her.** After the birth, she screamed for help and a nurse came into her room and told her to stop yelling.

Asked about the baby, the nurse said the baby was dead and later a doctor came into Wang's room to ask her to pay a fee to dispose of the baby's body. She told her doctor she had no money to pay the fee and he told her to dispose of the baby's body herself.

Wang's family, after hearing about the forced abortion, went to the clinic to ask staff there for paperwork authorizing the abortion. They were thrown out of the facility and staff threatened to contact local officials. "The doctors and nurses have no sense of humanity or medical ethics," Wang said. "The staff at the family planning office has no conscience or understanding of basic legal concepts. I am almost at the point of a nervous breakdown. Where are our most fundamental human rights? Modern China is the only country in history that requires a government permit to have a child. How many families have suffered because of the family planning policy?"

Can you imagine a group of Planned Parenthood employees barging into your home to arrest you and take you to get a forced abortion at their clinic? It is unimaginable!

Certainly Planned Parenthood would agree with pro-lifers that it is unjust for women to be taken against their wills and forced to have abortions (since they do *not* agree with us that unborn children should have any rights, but that women *should*), right?

But surprisingly, the National Abortion Federation, Planned Parenthood, National Organization for Women, and other feminist groups have largely remained silent and have not come to the defense of women in China. Every response I have ever read from Planned Parenthood on this issue involves them stating something vague about their belief that women in China should have a right to choose abortion, as we do here in the U.S. Yes, they *can* choose abortion, but what if they choose to *keep* their unborn children, but are then *forced* to abort? No comment. They sidestep the issue completely. Hence, no real response on forced abortion ever seems to come.

CHINESE ACTIVIST ARRESTED, FAMILY ABDUCTED

If you think it is difficult to be a pro-life activist in *our* country, read the following story (also from LifeNews) about one man who took a stand against forced abortion and sterilization in China.

Local authorities who have detained **Chen Guangcheng**, an activist against forced abortions, have snatched his elderly mother and three-year old son from Beijing and forced them to live under house arrest near Chen's home. Meanwhile, Chen's attorneys have finally been allowed to meet with him to help him with his case.



They were taken to the house of Chen's older brother, Chen Guangfu, who told Radio Free Asia that they have been prohibited from leaving even though Chen's mother has become ill. "Mother said she had a headache and was feeling unwell, so requested permission to go to the hospital. But they refused, sending a doctor to look at her instead," he told RFA.

Chen's wife, Yuan Weijing, who has been under tight surveillance at their home in Yinan county, said the number of local officials who have been standing guard outside her door has increased now that a team of attorneys is in town to try to help Chen. Since Chen's mother and son have been abducted, she has not been allowed out of the house. "I haven't been allowed out since they were kidnapped," Yuan told Radio Free Asia. "They haven't allowed me to go grocery shopping since June 13...Now their numbers have increased. There are 10 or 12 people outside my door right now."

Chen, a blind attorney, got in trouble with local officials last year when he exposed the nightmare events of the forced abortions and sterilizations in Linyi in interviews with Time Magazine and the Washington Post. Local family planning officials had forced as many as 10,000 women to submit to abortions or sterilizations. Anyone who attempted to flee was apprehended, beaten, and held hostage in city prisons until their relatives came forward and paid large fines for their release. He had been organizing a class action lawsuit against the city of Linyi at the time of his initial arrest.

Chen and his attorneys have been repeatedly attacked or harassed by local officials, including an incident last week where his attorneys, Li Jinsong and Zhang Linhui, were turned sideways in their vehicle as officials attempted to flip it over. Attorneys were finally allowed to meet with Chen last Wednesday to help prepare his defense in the case against him. "We met Chen at noon today," Zhang told Radio Free Asia. "His health is not bad. There are no visible signs of damage to him. He is focused and determined. He's doing well." He said local authorities have prevented him from releasing any more information to the media.

Zhang told RFA that attempts to secure freedom for Chen based on his disability have not gone over well. "We wanted them to use different methods of presenting evidence for Chen, like recordings, because he's blind, and we were told we needed to get the approval of the detention center police. But they said they were not concerned with this issue," Zhang said. Amnesty International in Hong Kong has been monitoring the Chen case and given information to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, AIHK spokeswoman Yan Chen told RFA. "I think that this will increase the level of international concern regarding Chen's case," she said.

Meanwhile, a group of democratic activists rallied together and wore blindfolds and t-shirts with Chen's picture. They walked the streets of Beijing asking that Chen be freed. "By standing in the streets of Beijing wearing T-shirts and blind folds today, we are showing our respect to Mr. Chen and calling for justice through artistic measures," Zhao Xin, executive director of the Empowerment and Rights Institute, said in an interview. "Many farmers were forced by the government to become sterile, have abortions, and some were even beaten," Zhao said about the forced abortion campaign in Linyi that Chen exposed. "He is helping these people, working for human rights," Zhao said. "However, because the evil government sees this as a revolt he was persecuted, illegally detained, and beaten."



Chen and his wife and 70 year-old mother were **under house arrest beginning in September last year**. The officials cut his telephone lines and used specialized equipment to prevent him from using his cell phone. National officials in Beijing have condemned the Linyi campaign but refused to assist Chen in defending himself against city officials.

Chen and his family have been in captivity for nearly one year simply for exposing the evil being done to Chinese mothers and their unborn children. Please pray for their safe release, and contact China's embassy in the US, encouraging them to help Chen Guangcheng at:

<http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/sgxx/dfzygy/t44338.htm>

IN THE US TOO?

In America, we have also partaken in the brazen act of sex selection. For instance, if a couple would like to have the "perfect" American family, one boy and one girl, but the first child was a boy and the second pregnancy is *also* a boy. They may turn to abortion to "solve" that "problem."

In many fertility clinics, parents can select the sex of their child with 100 percent accuracy as well. Although abortion is not *directly* involved here, when in vitro fertilization is implemented, unused embryos may eventually get disposed of, causing their deaths.

No matter what the method, a terrible injustice is being done to these defenseless babies, and in the case of China, to mothers as well. Please join me in praying for the citizens of China who are being so horribly violated, and for the many unborn children who are senselessly slaughtered in their mothers' wombs, not only in China, but also in America and around the world.

For the unborn and their parents,

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"You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, to repay it by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless."

Psalm 10:14