



Radio Son de l'Espoir
El Sonido de la Esperanza
Sound-of-Hope Radio Network

Press Release

September 11, 2005

Contact: Shawn Lin 678-548-5356

Media Blockade and Suppression in China Jeopardizes Human Lives Globally

-----Sound of Hope Radio Network Appeals Globally
to Help End the Media Blockade and Suppression in China

[MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. Sep 11, 2005] Sound of Hope Radio Network (SOH), an independent radio network headquartered in Mountain View, CA, issued a public appeal letter during the 60th Annual Summit of United Nations, to call for the ending of media blockade and Suppression in China.

In this public appeal, SOH emphasized that China's blockade and suppression of independent media not only breach the basic rights of the Chinese people, but also harms human lives globally, especially in the cases of public health crisis, such as SARS and Bird Flu pandemic.

SOH radio programs have provided valuable independent news coverage for people inside China via its daily 4 hour shortwave broadcast. This public appeal also urge Chinese Communist Party to stop jamming SOH shortwave radio signals.

The public appeal is collecting signatures online to pool international supports.

<http://www.petitiononline.com/SOH2005/petition.html>

or:

<http://soundofhope.org/petition.asp>

The full text of the public appeal is attached as well.

This public appeal will also be sent to World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Sound-of-Hope Radio Network
San Francisco (Headquarter): Tel: 415-276-5861, Fax: 408-573-8333
New York: Tel: 212-268-7868, Fax: 212-268-7869

China Should Stop Media Censorship and Blockade to Save People's Lives

All the open societies in the world understand one clear principle: the relationship of media with government simply tells the degree of a government's confidence, tolerance, transparency, and courage to invite public scrutiny. Media censorship and suppression will only allow the cover-up of corruption and malfunctions that happen in the past, present and future.

However, the practice of media suppression and censorship by Chinese Communist Party (CCP) does not merely lead to a deteriorating systematic corruption.

On 2003, due to CCP's media censorship, the world lost the best period to control and prevent the outbreak of SARS pandemic. The death toll would probably go beyond imagination if without the courageous exposure of the real situation of SARS epidemic in China by Dr. Jiang Yanyong.

On February 2005, in handling the incident of explosion at Sun Jiawan Mine in Liaoning province, China, CCP quickly blocked all independent media reports and the official media only reported about 230 people died. However, the reporters from Sound of Hope Radio Network discovered that at least 3000 people have died in this incident via telephone interviewing many local residents. The difference is: the authorities only counted the dead bodies that could be found, while the reporter from Sound of Hope presented the number of disappearance in this incident.

These cases clearly indicate that people's lives become a game of numbers in the statistics when CCP practices media censorship and suppression in China. And media censorship during a public health crisis is as good as taking people's lives directly.

This year, when the authorities in China claimed that the so-called "pig plague" in Sichuan province was under control, Sound of Hope Radio reported that the plague is still ongoing in some village in Sichuan province and the government was fooling the public with lies packaged with "science". Later in August, there are documented cases exposed again in HongKong and other regions. And experts outside China have seriously questioned the identify of the pathogens as China claimed it to be Streptococcus Suis.

Also in this year, numerous cases have been reported about outbreak of bird flu in countries around China, such Vietnam, Japan, North Korea, etc. Even though there is severe case of outbreak of bird flu in Qinghai Province in China, the CCP have repeated refused any joint efforts on investigation and prevention with international health organizations. And CCP frequently claimed that the bird flu was under control in China.

However, in the summer, outbreak of bird flu was documented in Tibet. Now, the bird flu cases have been reported in Russia and migrating toward Europe.

All these sent another alarm to the world community. The censorship and suppression of media by CCP would turn a natural disaster into giant “man-made” catastrophes again, if the world is losing the critical time period to control/prevent the pandemic of bird flu without the full understanding of scales of bird flu epidemic in China.

Today, the freedom of press is no longer just an outcry of Chinese people for their rights to obtain information freely, or just a hallmark for China’s progress towards democracy. In fact, press freedom in China is essential and vital for Chinese people to protect their rights to live. Moreover, the globalization of the world has also made it not longer an internal matter of China, cause the media censorship in China is also threatening the lives of people around the world.

We urgently calls for all governments, NGO, media and public to urge China to stop media censorship and suppression, during the period of coming 60th annual UN summit and the visit of China’s president Hu Jintao to North America. We urge the general public to sign and support the following urgent petition:

1. World Health Organization (WHO) shall take more effective approach to urge China to provide tissue and blood samples from patients or sicken/died animals to international health organizations for joint investigation for the epidemic of bird flu and “pig Plague”.
2. China should allow independent coverage from domestic and international media on any public health crisis or incidents of disasters in China.
3. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) should urge China to stop jamming the shortwave radio signals from Sound of Hope Radio, Radio Free Asia, etc. Chinese people should have the rights to obtain information from sources other than CCP official news.

The world should remember that Media Censorship and Suppression in China Jeopardizes People’s Lives in the World

Sound of Hope Radio Network
August 29, 2005

About Sound-of-Hope Radio Network (SOH):

Established in U.S., the Sound of Hope Radio Network (SOH) is a news-and-entertainment radio and internet broadcast content provider offering a unique and broad perspective on Chinese culture. With local radio programs in more than 40 cities and a rich pool of web radio programs, Sound of Hope Radio network has been able to reach millions of Chinese people in Europe, North America, Australia and some Asia countries. Currently, SOH also produces weekly English, French and Spanish programs to introduce Asia culture to more people. SOH is an independent radio network that could provide daily 4 hour broadcast in shortwave to mainland China, which is now severely jammed by CCP. This daily shortwave airtime slots are 6am to 7am at 9.635 MHz; 7am to 8am at 7.310 MHz; 9pm to 10pm at 7.310 MHz and 12am to 1am at 11.765 MHz. Please visit www.soundofhope.org for more info.

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