

Unwavering Convictions

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Gao Zhisheng's Ten-Year Torture and
Faith in China's Future

Gao Zhisheng

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Translator's Note

This book is the result of the efforts of several translators and editors apart from myself. I would like to thank Kevin Carrico, Paul Mooney, and Robert Kawtz, as well as others who for various reasons prefer not to be named, for contributing their invaluable skills to making Gao Zhisheng's narrative accessible to the English-reading public. I would also like to thank Bob Fu and the China Aid Association as well as Albert Ho Chun-yan in Hong Kong for providing the financial support for this translation.

Stacy Mosher
April 29, 2016

Foreword

Gao Zhisheng will inevitably be a key voice in the democratic future of China, the world's most populous country, which today is still ruled by the most murderous regime in history.

Gao was one of Beijing's most successful lawyers. Self-taught and brought up in poverty, he came to prominence through his defense of individuals persecuted by the regime for their religion and practice of Falun Gong.

These pages are not an easy read, because they detail the regime's attempts to break one of the greatest spirits of our time. Despite this, Gao Zhisheng's unwavering convictions, profound beliefs, and commitment to humanity shine through.

Escaping house arrest briefly, Gao once told me on a borrowed mobile phone that he had been tortured to the point of death. On regaining consciousness, he saw men in white coats around him. One said, "We don't want you to die: we want to make you want to die."

This book contains his prediction that the regime will fall in 2017. This echoes the prediction made to me in 2010 by China's great artist Ai Weiwei, who said of Gao (the video is available on YouTube) that his continued detention would be impossible in a civilized country, and that the present Communist totalitarian regime is doomed.

In 2005, Gao investigated the persecution of Falun Gong, a popular new Buddha-school exercise practice that at its height in 1999 had some seventy to hundred million practitioners. In early 2006, he gave evidence to the UN's torture *rappporteur*, Dr. Manfred Nowak, who estimated that some two-thirds of the seven to eight million detained in China's re-education through labor system were practitioners of Falun Gong. Thousands of them perished from the illegal harvesting of their vital organs as part of the People's Liberation Army's lucrative organ transplant trade.

I encountered Gao Zhisheng in Beijing in May 2006, where I met former prisoners who had been tortured. We often talked through an interpreter in the coming months, whenever he could find a safe mobile phone.

I was able to use my position in the European Parliament to keep Gao's name in public and political consciousness through debates, resolutions, and campaigns, and nominating him for the Nobel Peace Prize, which one day he will receive.

His many supporters followed Gao's arrest in August 2006, his release into house arrest, re-arrest and show trial to the condemnation of the international community and then his long disappearance.

This book, a sequel to his 2007 *A China More Just*, was written secretly in the humble home where he was brought up and is still today cared for by his beloved elder brother. It is a saga of suffering but it is also a detailed charge sheet for the international prosecutors of tomorrow. It lists as well the occasional acts of humanity from some of his jailers, toiling in the service of a tyranny.

I have met many great human beings such as Nelson Mandela or Aung San Suu Kyi who have suffered for their principles and fellow citizens, but none has come through ten years of such unending and extreme torture, with no concessions of principle. Gao's conversion to a robust, unshakable Christian faith is recounted in the book and credited by Gao with strengthening him to endure the agony of torture while showing compassion to his captors.

Gao Zhisheng is ready to serve the 1.3 billion Chinese when the time comes and is unwilling to leave China to join his wife and children in their US exile. He is a hero of our time.

Edward McMillan-Scott was a British vice-president of the European Parliament, responsible for Democracy & Human Rights 2004–2014, and is a board member of China Aid.

Edward McMillan-Scott

Introduction

2017 marks the hundredth anniversary of Communism. I believe that by Heaven's decree, this will also be the year in which the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) will be defeated and overthrown. At that time, having reached its ninety-sixth anniversary in China and having tyrannized China for sixty-eight years, the CCP will become just another horrible memory as it is swept into the dustbin of history. Evil regimes come and go, but the Chinese people abide forever!

The extinction of the world's communist regimes entered its final countdown in the 1980s, but to China's shame, one-fifth of humanity still crawls along this hard road. Human limitations cause civilization to move forward through repeated heroic attempts and bloody experiments. In this sense, Russia's embrace of Communism in 1917 was not blameworthy in itself, but once the communist system's evils became obvious, the wicked capabilities it had built up were then used to muffle dissent and coercively promote this evil to all of humanity, resulting in unnatural death on a massive scale and a suppression of basic freedoms.

Communism has gone through thirty years of flourishing and expansion, followed by thirty-odd years of sustaining its life through violence and lies. The current third period of thirty-odd years marks its steady decline, including its necrosis over wide expanses of territory from the 1980s to the early 1990s.

Communism's global defeat and extinction shows God's plan, first in that while all communist regimes seized power through violence, they have been vanquished through the peaceful opposition of their own citizens. Second, not a single one of the world's communist regimes has gained rebirth through self-transformation. Once the CCP collapses, the demise of the remaining communist regimes, such as North Korea's, will be a mere technicality. I believe that in 2017, China will be merged into humanity's universal civilization, and that in this new era of freedom and democracy, the Chinese people will become a constructive force in civilization's advancement.