

TO: Wang Yi, PRC Foreign Minister
FROM: Zhangyi Zhou, Chinese diplomat
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RE: Human rights of civilians - fundamental rights that cannot be ignored

Summary

Over the last few years, the relationship between China and the United Kingdom has gradually descended into a cold war. After the Tiananmen Square massacre, Britain had a sense of disillusionment with the Chinese political system. The Communist Party of China (CPC) employs high-handed tactics to suppress its own people. People's individual rights are not guaranteed, and nobody care about the human rights of the masses. The ideological differences between China and Britain on human rights have largely contributed to the deterioration of relations. I consider that China needs new policies to strengthen the protection of human rights. I have listed three policy options below. They are strengthening efforts to publicize human rights, expanding the scope of judicial remedies, and guaranteeing the individual freedoms of citizens on the part of the State.

Background

The Tiananmen Square incident began because students were dissatisfied with inflation and official corruption caused by relatively economically liberal policies. The students erected a statue of the Goddess of Democracy in the square. They long for freedom from "totalitarian rule." Over the next few weeks, the student demonstrators were backed by a growing number of supporters. People from all walks of life began to support the protesting students, believing that they were speaking for the people (Abas, M., & Broadhead, J., 1989). In this case, the Chinese Communist Party chose to suppress it by force. The massacre took place on June 4, 1989. In the early morning hours, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) bloodily suppressed the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square. The PLA became the centerpiece of a massive propaganda campaign orchestrated by the Communist Party to erase the political impact and memory of the Tiananmen Square democracy movement (Kovalio, J., 1991). The Tiananmen Square incident was the largest in a long series of protest movements centered on university students that have taken place in China's capital over the past 70 years. From a British perspective, China's approach diverges from previous practices. The Communist Party's paternalistic image has vanished. The Tiananmen Incident festered because the leadership did not pay attention to the disagreements and made risky decisions that led to flawed results (Lee, T. C., 2017). The issue of human rights should be a priority in the development of modern Chinese society. As a country with a large population, the importance of human rights is a matter of national stability. At the same time, it affects the way other countries view China.

Policy options

1) Strengthening efforts to publicize human rights

For civilians, publicity is an important way in which they can learn about human rights. The government can use the media to widely publicize and popularize human rights. For example, disseminating information through the press. This can raise public awareness of human rights. People can enjoy their rights better. On the other hand, I think that civic and moral

education can try to build up the public's awareness of respecting and protecting the rights of others. In this way, it would be difficult for a relatively corrupt populace in terms of civic morality to scorn and trample on the rights of others. This would be helpful in constructing a more righteous China. Both types of publicity are aimed at the general public. All citizens have the opportunity to be publicized. They are easier and faster to implement. The downside is that they do not regulate to the behavior of individuals. Whether they serve the purpose of safeguarding human rights depends on the attitude and responsibility of the citizens themselves.

2) Expanding the scope of judicial remedies

In China, all authorities have a duty to respect and safeguard human rights. Also, they have the duty to take positive action against those who have been subjected to violations of their rights. However, judicial remedies do not help all those in need. I often see in some rule of law documentaries that people who deserve judicial remedies seek help because they cannot get them. Human rights violations reflect institutional instability and weak leadership. Citizens' democratic and political rights deserve better judicial protection (Fisch, J. A., 2001). Expanding the scope of judicial remedies is not just about helping those who need assistance. It is more a country's determination to universalize human rights. Some Western countries have adopted the option of organizing direct parliamentary investigations into major cases of human rights violations. This is something that China should learn from. Although this will increase the working hours and pressure of the judiciary. But the results are also outstanding.

3) Guaranteeing the individual freedoms of citizens on the part of the State

In my opinion, this is the point where China needs to be the most critical. The personal freedom of the citizen represents the right of the individual to dispose freely without prejudice to the interests of others. This is what I learned from my middle school politics book. However, I think it appears in books more often than is likely to exist in real life. Prior to the adoption by the National People's Congress in 2004 of the draft amendment to the Constitution, which states that "the State respects and guarantees human rights," human rights and freedoms were relatively taboo subjects (Chen, D., 2005). Until today, the individual freedom of citizens has not been fully guaranteed. Individual freedom is divided into two types: freedom of speech and freedom of thought. While the state supports citizens to have their own thoughts, it still interferes. News that is not good for the country, even if true, will be erased. I don't think it's any mistake. But I still think people should have the right to know and to think about. Unfortunately, too much freedom of speech and thought still have its drawbacks. When citizens are dissatisfied with the decisions made by the leadership, it is easy for some riotous behavior to occur.

Policy Recommendation

These three policy options are committed to giving the general population greater guarantees of human rights. They would be more convincing to the public to implement than the current policy. The expansion of judicial protection in China would be a boost to the happiness of the population. At the same time, residents will feel that the Government is trying to maximize their human rights. The country and its people being of one mind is a very great help in governing the country. Some countries like the United Kingdom, have questions about human rights in China can sense China's efforts. This has an indispensable role to play in eliminating prejudices between countries.

Sources

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