



China News Summary July 2009

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General Board of Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church
475 Riverside Drive, Room 1335
New York, NY 10115
www.qbgm-umc.org

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China agrees to UN sanctions against North Korea. China lent its vote to the unanimous United Nations Security Council resolution which imposed strict sanctions on North Korea in response to Pyongyang's underground nuclear weapons test in late May. China, which is seen as an ally to North Korea, was genuinely angered by North Korea's tests, said the *New York Times*, and its vote sent a stern signal to Pyongyang. As late as 2007, in six-nation talks led by China, North Korea had agreed to abandon its nuclear weapons program as part of those negotiations in return for greater economic aid and a voice at the international table. In the last two years Pyongyang reneged on its promises and has been actively testing its nuclear capabilities. The new UN Resolution 1874 calls for a halt to all future tests and ballistic missile construction in North Korea and demands Pyongyang rejoin the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It bans all weapons exports from North Korea and the import of all but small arms. The resolution also gives authorization to all UN member states to inspect North Korean cargo being transported on high seas for goods suspected of being connected to weapons of mass destruction. China originally objected to the original wording of the resolution's stop and search article which would have made stop and search mandatory. There was no attempt to expand sanctions on non-military goods, reported the *Guardian*. Traditional allies from when it fought on North Korea's side during the Korean War of 1950, Beijing is keen that the Pyongyang government remain in tact less a government collapse would send millions of refugees across the Sino-North Korea border, reports the BBC. It also quoted Willie Lam of the Chinese University, Hongkong, who speculates that "The Chinese used to think that Kim Jong-Il was just playing nuclear poker with the Americans, South Korea and Japan" but "now [Beijing] thinks he really does want a nuclear arsenal" to secure the succession of his third son, Kim Jong-un, reported the BBC. ("U.N. Security Council pushes North Korea by passing sanctions," *New York Times*, June 13, 2009; "UN toughens North Korea sanctions," *BBC News*, June 12, 2009; "UN approves 'unprecedented' sanctions against North Korea nuclear test," *Guardian*, June 12, 2009; "China gets tough with North Korea," *BBC* June 27, 2009)

China agrees to massive loan for Zimbabwe. China has agreed to give Zimbabwe \$950 million in credit line to help revive Zimbabwe's battered economy, reported the BBC. This follows Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's plea to the world's largest economies to help Zimbabwe rebuild its dilapidated infrastructure and to ease a 90 percent unemployment rate, said the *China Daily*. The announcement came after Prime Minister Tsvangirai's North American and European visits which managed to raise \$500 million in pledges from various nations on the two continents including \$73 million from the United States. Most of those pledges have caveats attached such the creation of democracy and improvement of human rights, reported the *China Daily*. China was one of the few countries that continued trade with Zimbabwe prior to its 2008 power-sharing agreement between President Robert Mugabe's Zanu PF and Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change. Prime Minister Tsvangirai says Zimbabwe needs US\$8 billion to recover from the fallouts that a collapsed economy created reported the *New York Times*. ("China agrees huge Zimbabwe loan," *BBC* June 30, 2009; "Zimbabwe secures \$950m credit line from China," *China Daily*, July 1, 2009; "Zimbabwe says China is giving it loans," *New York Times*, July 1, 2009)

Uighur detainees at Guantanamo sent to Palau and Bermuda, not China. China demanded the return of the 17 men from China all of Uighur ethnic minority detained at Guantanamo Bay for seven years, but cleared of all terrorist charges related to Al Qaeda last year. China claimed the men were members of the separatist East Turkistan Islamic Movement which seeks to separate the Xinjiang Autonomous Region from China, an act Beijing considers treason, reported Reuters. Although the United States had refused the men settlement in the US, it had brokered deals with the Pacific Island nation of Palau to take 13 of the men and with Bermuda who agreed to take the four others. Bermuda is an overseas territory of the

United Kingdom and a diplomatic row erupted when it was discovered that the United States did not consult the British Foreign Office over the move until the Uighur detainees were on the plane, said the BBC. The UK is responsible for Bermuda's external relations, defense and security and for appointing a governor. In 2001 the 17 Uighur men had left China because of what they alleged as Chinese persecution and were living in Pakistan at a training camp when their camp was bombed by the US military. The men were subsequently turned in to the US military by Pakistani villagers for a cash bounty, reported the *New York Times*. The men insisted they were never anti-American and had no knowledge of Al Qaeda, said the *NYT*. The US government also allowed Chinese authorities to interview the men while they were detained at Guantanamo. In 2006, five other Uighur men were released from Guantanamo and were accepted by Albania. (*"Palau to take Guantanamo Uighurs," BBC, June 10, 2009; "China demands U.S. send Guantanamo Uighurs back," Reuters, June 11, 2009; "Bermuda takes Guantanamo Uighurs, BBC, June 11, 2009; "Row erupts over Guantanamo deal," June 12, 2009; "Out of Guantanamo, Uighurs bask in Bermuda," June 15, 2009; "US 'kept Guantanamo deal from UK'," BBC, June 12, 2009*)

China Christian Council unveils new Christian resources. The China Christian Council held a conference recently for Chinese Christian publishers and distributors in Nanchang, Jiangxi province. Using the slogan "A good book in 10,000 homes, a blessing to all the world", the conference showcased new books and audio-visual resources produced by the China Christian Council and various provincial Christian Councils. It also introduced a new online Christian bookstore where resources could be ordered. The conference was addressed by the Rev. Dan Weihai, deputy secretary general of the China Christian Council and focused on ways of disseminating Christian education material and Biblical resources to China's 20-30 million Protestant Christians. (*CTBI China e-bulletin, June 2009; China Christian Council, July 1, 2009*)

China delays mandatory installation of anti-pornography and -violence software on personal computers. China delayed the enforcement of a requirement that all personal computer makers pre-install software that is designed to filter pornography and violence from online content, reported the *New York Times*. The law would have made it mandatory to have the software Green Dam-Youth Escort (*luba huaji huhang*) either pre-installed or ready to be installed via a provided CD, on every personal computer sold on China's mainland after July 1, 2009. According to the AFP, China delayed the law's implementation because some computer producers argued that such a massive installation demanded extra time and a clear execution plan. China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology faced strong resistance from many different arenas. Chinese retailers that already had large stocks of unsold computers said it would have been very complicated to comply with the law. Human rights groups challenged the intent of the software and said that it would be used by the government to block politically sensitive Internet sites and material. The US administration officially warned Beijing that the requirement could violate free-trade agreements, said the *New York Times*. Even computer experts within and outside China warned that *luba* (Green Dam-Youth Escort) could expose personal computers to security risks because it was using outdated programming practices, said the BBC. The law came at a time when the Chinese government had twice warned the search engine giant Google that it must cease "disseminating pornographic and vulgar information", with Google responding that it was taking "all necessary steps" to remove pornography from its Chinese language portal Google.cn, reported the BBC. China has the largest number of Internet users in the world and the *China Daily* reported the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology will carry out the directive on *luba* in due course. (*"After outcry, China delays requirement for web-filtering software," New York Times, July 1, 2009; "Google to cut China porn results," BBC, June 22, 2009; "China clarifies web filter plans," June 18, 2009; "Plug not pulled on Green Dam," China Daily, July 2, 2009; "China delay 'victory' for public opinion'," AFP, July 1, 2009*)

Shanghai amends residency rules. The Shanghai municipality unveiled plans to relax residency rules for skilled professional migrant workers from other regions of China who have held Shanghai temporary residency for over seven years, reported the BBC. It is the first time a policy has offered the option of permanent residency for talents of those born outside a major city or municipality, said the *China Daily*. China's residency system (*hukou*), in part developed in the 1950s to monitor movement, requires citizenry to register in the place they were born. Residents then have access to educational, housing and health care rights in their place of residency, but not beyond. Migrant workers who move from the countryside to urban industrial areas in search of work, are almost always ineligible to change residency, especially if they are unskilled. Classified as illegal migrant workers, they are not entitled to health care, housing, and or public school education for their children. Of the 18 million who populate the Shanghai municipality, six million are migrant workers, said Xinhua, China's state-run news agency. A change in Shanghai's

residency requirements may only benefit about 3,000 migrant workers, said the BBC, but it may be the first in a long series of welcomed residency changes to come. Critics inside and outside China have called the *hukou* system 'peasant apartheid'. There are an estimated 200 million migrant workers throughout China who have been the backbone of China's staggering economic success. Most migrant workers work in factories, on construction sites, or are the nannies to the child(ren) of professional couples. The new applicants for Shanghai residency must also be taxpayers, have vocational qualifications at medium or high levels, had no credit violations or criminal records and must not have violated any family planning policies, reported the *China Daily*. ("Shanghai relaxes residency rules," June 18, 2009; Shanghai residency rules draw criticism for discrimination," PRC National Population and Family Planning Commission of China, June 18, 2009; "Shanghai residency rules discriminate," *China Daily*, June 18, 2009)

US military spending seven times higher than China's. Worldwide military spending reached record levels, nearly \$1.5 trillion, 45 percent higher than just one decade ago, reported Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) in its Yearbook 2008. The United States by far tops the worldwide military expenditure list, having spent \$607 billion in 2008. The second largest military spender is China which spent \$84.9 billion in 2008. The report also said that China had both the largest absolute and largest relative increases which paralleled its overall economic growth. The Sipri report also noted that the global financial crisis "has yet to have an impact on major arms companies' revenues, profits and order backlogs" as evident by its findings. One hundred leading defense manufacturers sold arms worth \$347 billion, reported the BBC which also said that almost all of the arms manufacturing companies were either American or European. The *Guardian* added that Chinese companies were excluded as figures for them were unavailable. Sipri estimates that there are about 8,400 operational nuclear warheads in the world and a total of 23,300 nuclear weapons including ones that will be dismantled or those in storage. Those figures represent the combined arsenals of eight countries: the US, China, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, India, Pakistan and Israel. ("Global weapons spending hits record levels," *Guardian*, June 8, 2009; "Military spending hits new record," *BBC News*, June 8, 2009; www.sipri.org)

China suspends two hydroelectric dams on environmental concerns. The Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection has suspended the construction of two hydroelectric dams citing they were begun illegally without the necessary environmental assessments, said the bilingual website Chinadialogue. The ruling is looked on as a major victory for the Ministry of Environmental Protection because of the sensitive biodiversity of the Lijiang region in north Yunnan province, the location of the dams. The dams are part of a 200 billion *yuan* (US\$30 billion), 350 mile-long project along the Jinsha River in Yunnan province, involving China's two largest state-owned power companies, Huadian Power and Huaneng Power. The proposed power station project along the Jinsha River tributary is to be as massive as the Three Gorges Dam project, reported the *Telegraph*. Earlier Prime Minister Wen Jiabao had personally blocked plans for dams along the Nu River in Yunnan, one of only two major rivers in China that had not been dammed. For several years China has been publically admitting to problems caused by the Three Gorges Dam project along the Yangtze River, said the *Seattle Times*: mudslides due to the intense pressure from large reservoirs; algae forming in tributaries where water has become low and slow-moving; the need to relocate even more people whose homes and livelihoods have been destroyed by flooding and unstable, shifting land. In Yunnan province a Ministry spokesperson said that hydropower resources along the Jinsha River area were already being overexploited and dams that were constructed without intensive environmental analysis would further damage the ecology of the river and local communities. The Ministry also suspended approvals for other projects proposed by Huadian Power and Huaneng Power, except those involving energy-saving and pollution prevention measures, reported the BBC. ("China halts £20 billion dam project," *Telegraph*, June 12, 2009; "Environment fears halt China dams," *BBC*, June 12, 2009; "China admits to big problems from its dams," *Seattle Times*, October 13, 2007; "China suspends two Yangtze Dams," *Chinadialogue*, June 12, 2009)

1989 Tiananmen Square dissident refused entry into China. Wu'er Kaixi one of the best known dissidents from the Tiananmen Square protests in Beijing in 1989, attempted to return to China via the Special Administrative Region of Macau, but was turned away at the airport, reported the *New York Times*. It was his second attempt at returning to China. Wu'er Kaixi said he wanted to surrender to the Chinese authorities after two decades in exile as a way to see his aging parents who were not allowed to fly overseas to visit their son. Wu'er Kaixi has now settled in Taiwan. In a written statement Wu'er said that he had not seen his parents in 20 years and also that "I am hopeful that a trial at least would be a resumption of dialogue of some sort," reported the *NYT*. In a BBC interview he said he would not have

done what he did in 1989 had he knew the results were to be so bloody. Hundreds of students, government soldiers and workers died when the Chinese military cracked down on protestors. Wu'er Kaixi may be best known as the pajama clad student who shook his finger at the then prime minister, Li Peng, during a live television discussion in 1989, an act which caused the government to lose credibility and face. China has never allowed an independent investigation into the military's handling of the protests and today young Chinese know little about the event. The generation that was born after Tiananmen have largely eschewed politics in favor of nationalism and economic development, remarked the *Seattle Times*. (*"Protest leaders tries to surrender in Macao," New York Times, June 4, 2009; "Key Tiananmen protestor tries to return to China," Seattle Times, June 4, 2009*)

Stop coddling students during exam times Chinese authorities encourage. In June an estimated 10.2 million students took university entrance exams in over 60,000 locations throughout China. It is the largest exam process in the world, reported the BBC. The exams are 2-3 days in length and will determine whether or not students are accepted into university as well as what kind of university or technical college they will attend. So important are the exams that many supportive but anxious parents travel with their child to exam centers, pack their child's favorite food and stay outside the location all day. Some parents book hotels where their child can rest between exams. Such excessive coddling by parents was criticized by the *China Daily* which said that such behavior shows a "lack of independence of today's 17 and 18 year-olds" as well as a "lack of confidence in these children" by doting parents. In the last several years the exams have been marred by incidences of high-tech cheating like radio receivers inside of ears, said the *China Daily*. The Ministry of Education has responded by equipping almost all of the 60,000 test centers with video equipment. The tapes will be kept for future investigations, if necessary said the *China Daily*. In addition "e-police" have been stationed outside some centers with radio-monitoring cars which can block the transmission of any high tech remote radio signals. But for many of the students the video equipment means fairness is ensured which makes them more confident in their performance, encouraged the *China Daily*. (*"Exam cheats to be caught on camera," China Daily, June 5, 2009; "Chinese pupils feel exam pressure," BBC News, June 8, 2009; "Over 10 million Chinese students take college entrance exams," Central News Agency, June 12, 2009*)

Television justice. People who have disputes that often do not qualify for a court of law can appear on a Shanghai-based television show to have the situation resolved by a 'mediator', reports the *Shanghai Daily*. The half-hour television show, Old Uncle, features around 50 mediators who agree to listen to and settle a variety of disputes like generational difficulties, medical anomalies, familial quarrels and neighborhood feuds. One of the most popular mediators who now appears twice a week is Bai Wanqing, called Auntie Bai. Ms. Bai, 60, a former community neighborhood officer, is popular with middle aged to older television viewers and is known for her quick wit and no-nonsense approach to sorting out disputes. Resolutions are non-binding but because the disputes are aired on national television this helps ensure that that both parties keep to what has been agreed, said production staff in a BBC report. Many participants are from rural areas and not familiar with the law; they have become so desperate for a resolution to their conflict that they are willing to appear on national television. (*"Even the wisest judge cannot solve family problems," Shanghai Daily, February 2, 2009; "Seeking television justice in China," BBC News, June 10, 2009*)

First gay-pride festival in Shanghai. The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) community in Shanghai celebrated gay pride in a week-long festival which included art exhibitions, discussions, literary events, and an all-day party to end the event, according to the festival's official website, shanghaipride.com. The festival received mixed signals from the Chinese government, who had decriminalized gay sex in 1997 and ceased referring to it as a mental illness in 2001, said the *NYT*. The *China Daily*, China's official English language newspaper, ran an article which applauded the event as "a good showcase of the country's social progress." Shortly after the article appeared Shanghai authorities forced the cancellation of several events including a play called the *Laramie Project* about Matthew Shepherd a gay man lured to his death in rural Wisconsin, reported the *New York Times*. During the festival authorities showed up at several parties but did not interfere. At the end of the event the *China Daily* ran another editorial which called the event "a milestone and a success, despite some unexpected official interference." Citing Shanghai's hosting of the World Expo in May 2010, the article continued, "If Shanghai cannot show acceptance, understanding and tolerance for LGBT, how can it expect to attract and respect the diverse people coming to visit the Expo?" There was no mention of the Shanghai Pride event in the Chinese-language state newspapers, said the *NYT*. (*"Shanghai to show pride with gay festival," BBC,*

June 6, 2009; "Gay festival in China pushes official boundaries," *New York Times*, June 15, 2009; "Shanghai hosts first gay pride festival," *China Daily*, June 10, 2009; "Gay festival teaches tolerance," *China Daily*, June 16, 2009)

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