

China today is standing at an historical crossroads. But up to this day, China remains entirely under the control of Communists, and is still a Communist totalitarian regime.

Today, there is a new political belief that engaging with the tyrants of Communist China through money, trade and technology transfer is the best way to promote democracy and improve human rights in China. It seems this is an attempt to convince me to believe that money can change a tiger into a vegetarian. But I think the money and technology going to China serves as a blood transfusion to a dying Communist evil. Seven days from now, Chinese Communist leader Hu Jintao will be an honored guest in the White House. According to my knowledge, there have not been any other Communist leaders of the world who have been treated as an honored guest at the White House. I think the reason why Hu, as the ruler of Communist China, has been treated differently is that he rules over a 1.3 billion-strong market and labor force, which distinguishes China's population from the 11 million of Communist Cuba and the 24 million of North Korea. Today, almost every entrepreneur has to kowtow to Beijing.

China's current situation can be described using the statement of former Soviet leader Lenin in 1905: "The people at the top can't rule the people in the old way, and the people at the bottom won't accept rule in the old way."

It is common knowledge that every totalitarian regime needs a repressive mechanism to retain its power and control. In Nazi Germany, the name of this mechanism was the concentration camp; in the Soviet Union its name was the Gulag. What about China? Does China lack such a mechanism? Could it really be that China's Communist tyrants don't need one?

As President Ronald Regan said, the Soviet Union was an "Evil Empire", and one of the reasons for his pronouncement was the continued existence of the Soviet Gulag system. Today, only a few people continue to discuss the issue of the Chinese Laogai. Perhaps people think China is a kind of "Angel Empire", not an Evil Empire, so there is no Chinese Gulag or Laogai.

As a survivor of the Chinese Laogai, in which I spent 19 years, I feel honored to introduce you to the Laogai. Before 1974, the word

Gulag could not be found in many dictionaries, but after Alexander Solzhenitsyn won the Nobel Peace Prize, the word Gulag was added to dictionaries of all languages. In 2003, the word Laogai was added into the Oxford English Dictionary. “Laogai” means political violence in China and the forced labor camp system under China’s Communist regime. The Laogai is incompatible with freedom.