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# Moral imperative

## Exporting inexpensive drugs to developing countries

by KATY KIDD-WRIGHT and DR. BOB DICKSON

May 14 was the 5th anniversary of Canada's government passing a law to permit exporting inexpensive drugs to developing countries. Only once has this law been used!

A law that doesn't work? Not in Canada, surely. Well, there is at least one flagrant example of a failed bill, and it has the potential to affect millions of the world's most ill.

As hard as it is to fathom in our comfortable world, each and every day 14,000 people die just from treatable infectious diseases. The World Health Organization (WHO) says 1/3 of the world's population, over 2 billion people, lack regular access to essential, effective medicines. One reason for this enormous tragedy is that drug patent monopolies on medicines often keep prices high, far beyond the reach of the poor.

International agreements in 2001 and 2003 at the World Trade Organization provided hope that this could change. Countries were given permission to implement legislation and regulations that would change patent laws and allow less expensive generic versions of medicines still under patent to be exported to developing countries. This meant that the newest HIV/AIDS drugs could be produced and sold at a

lower cost to developing countries. In 2004, Canada introduced legislation that was intended to help developing countries get more affordable medicines to their people. Rwanda chose Apotex to pro-

duce the HIV/AIDS fixed-dose combination drug Apo-Tri-Avir and the first shipment of 7 million tablets that will help treat 21,000 people was shipped in September 2008. Unfortunately, this first use of Canada's law may also be the last. Since its all-party adoption in 2004, the Canadian law has only been applied once. Despite its positive intention, the law is seriously flawed.

## 1/3 of the world's population, over 2 billion people, lack regular access to essential, effective medicines

Canada's law only allows some developing countries to be automatically eligible to purchase generic medicines produced in Canada, and the list of allowable drugs is very short. Currently, those lists

Even more of a problem is the process of getting a license to make and export the lower-cost drugs. The current process for a generic company to apply for and receive the necessary "compulsory license" to allow it to produce generic drugs for export restricts companies to dealing with only one country and one drug order at a time, for a fixed quantity of a drug and for only up to 2 years.

Canada's Access to Medicines Regime is broken and needs to be fixed. First, simpler processes are needed for developing countries and generic producers to enter into

agreements to produce and purchase needed medicines and pharmaceutical products.

Second, Canada should not be trying to predetermine the health needs of developing countries by creating a narrow list of approved drugs, nor should we be limiting which countries can easily seek affordable medicines. Neither of these restrictions is required by the WTO. Finally, more flexibility is needed in the contract process. Producers are more likely to engage in the lengthy approval process if they can seek out new clients for the same product, negotiate extensions or longer terms if developing countries want them, and if there is the flexibility to change the quantities required.

There is good reason to fix the law now. Canada's largest generic company, Apotex, is willing to produce a fixed-dose combination AIDS medicine that will be easy for kids to take but only if the Canadian government simplifies the compulsory licensing process. Fixed-dose combinations for children living with HIV/AIDS are critical. They combine several AIDS medicines into one tablet, replacing the need to take different syrups.

780,000 children with HIV need medicines but only 15% are getting them. A safe, affordable and easier to take pill would ensure more children get treatment and could save the lives of some of the 2.3 million kids under 15 currently infected with HIV.

Tuberculosis is another case in point. Microscopy is over 100 years old. The only TB vaccine available has limited applications and is nearly 80 years old, while the most commonly used TB drugs were developed 40 years ago.

The Global Plan to Stop TB clearly outlines the research and development needed to help prevent, diagnose and treat TB. Inno-

vatative products are being developed and a much more effective vaccine could be on the market in the next 3-5 years. However, a new vaccine would not reach vulnerable populations if it is not affordable. As new TB vaccines and drugs are developed, Canada's legislation must be reformed so that there is the possibility that they can be produced affordably and give developing countries a viable supply option.

Since 2003, only 6 jurisdictions have implemented legislation or regulations to help move affordable, generic versions of drugs to developing countries. Canada has a significant generic industry so we are uniquely placed to have considerable impact in saving lives by providing lower-cost medicines and pharmaceutical products.

In April, Bill S-232 was introduced in Canada's Senate by Senator Yoine Goldstein. This bill would reform Canada's Access to Medicines Regime by reducing red tape and eliminating lists that limit the number of eligible countries and drugs, meaning developing countries could more easily make use of the Canadian law according to their own assessment of health needs.

The 2 billion people who don't have regular access to essential medicines cannot afford further delay by the Government of Canada. It is time to reform Canada's Access to Medicines Regime.

We must support our senators and parliamentarians and pass this legislation expeditiously. We have a moral imperative to do so.

Katy Kidd-Wright is a researcher and staff person and Dr. Bob Dickson is a partner with RESULTS Canada [www.resultscanada.ca](http://www.resultscanada.ca) - <http://www.resultscanada.ca> - a non-profit organization committed to ending abject poverty and debilitating diseases in our world.

# Rape case reveals Chinese Regime's dilemma

## Waitress's self defense strikes chord throughout China

By TIANLIANG ZHANG  
Epoch Times Staff

A recent rape case in China helps illustrate the dilemma facing the Chinese Communist Party as it faces the anger born of its own corruption and misgovernment.

On May 10, three local CCP officials, Deng Guida, Deng Zhongjia, and Huang Dezhi, went to a recreational venue in Badong County in Hubei Province looking for sex after eating and drinking. A waitress there named Deng Yujiao refused their demands for "special service," and they attempted to force her.

According to her lawyer, she was raped and may have been gang raped. She resisted and stabbed one of the three officials several times with a fruit knife. Deng Guida died on the way to the hospital.

When this event became known, the Chinese people rallied to waitress Yujiao's side. Ninety-two percent of the posts on an Internet BBS supported her, and few showed sympathy for the dead official. The case also attracted intense national media attention.

Nonetheless, the police immediately detained Yujiao in Youfu Hospital, a psychiatric hospital the

police control. It is reported that in the hospital, Yujiao said the police threatened her and told her that she could "avoid the death penalty" if she admitted she had psychiatric problems. The police said this would "give the government a way out."

Last Friday, the State Council Information Office (SCIO) issued explicit instructions regarding this case: "Every Web site should cool down its reporting of the Deng Yujiao case." SCIO also ordered this case should not be treated as headline news; it should be trivialized, and online comments should be strictly limited.

In particular, SCIO stipulated, "harmful information that viciously attacks the CCP and the government, attacks the Justice system, or promotes democracy and human rights needs to be deleted with firm determination!"

Why such an ordinary criminal case can become so complicated may be hard to understand. It attracts not only intensive media attention and strong support for the presumed victim Deng Yujiao from all over the country, but also prompts orders from the SCIO. And, even if Deng Yujiao is suspected of murder, why force her to admit that she has mental prob-

lems in order "to give the government a way out?"

Deng Yujiao, the presumed victim, and Deng Guida, the presumed perpetrator, are no longer two individuals. Deng Yujiao becomes the representative of ordinary people who are enraged by the CCP's corruption and insults. Deng Guida becomes the representative of the communist regime.

When ordinary people seek justice for Deng Yujiao, they are seeking justice for themselves. When the CCP sees the people's anger, it knows the anger is not pointing at Deng Guida as an individual. It knows that anger is pointing at all the CCP officials who are like Deng Guida.

### The fire in Weng'An

On June 28, 2008, more than 10,000 people gathered in Weng'An, a small town in Guizhou Province, and the police station was set on fire. The police dispersed the crowd with an armored car. Three were killed, 150 people were injured, and 300 were arrested.

A rape and possible murder triggered this protest. A girl named Li Shufen, who attended the local middle school, had been raped and then drowned. Whether

her death was suicide or murder was not clear. Individuals with ties to the local CCP officials were implicated.

The girl's uncle, Li Xiuzhong, who taught in the local school, went to the police to seek help. The police simply ignored him even though Li Xiuzhong then argued with them. Right after he left the police station, a few people beat him. He suffered a cracked bone and was hospitalized. Starting from the school where Li Xiuzhong teaches, 10,000 people gathered and moved to outside the police station to protest. A few people set the building on fire.

On July 3, Shi Zongyuan, the head of the CCP Committee in Guizhou Province, summarized the event in this way: "This case, although the factual, direct reason is the argument about the girl's cause of death, the in-depth reason is that the local government has damaged the people's interest so often during the process of ore mining, emigrant settlement, and the removal of original residences by tearing down their buildings. ... When the confrontation happened, some officials did nothing and simply pushed the police to the front line. This case looks like an accident, but it was bound to happen. It was only a matter of time."

The CCP officials clearly know that if Deng Yujiao is given a verdict of self defense and found in-

nocent, that verdict goes beyond her own situation. Such a verdict would admit the people's rights of resistance or revolution when facing abuse from the CCP officials. Moreover, such a verdict will be a clear signal that if people stand united and fight hard, they will get what they want.

On the one hand, the CCP officials fear that if the CCP compromises, people may ask for human rights and democracy. Moreover, a regime can only exist with supporters. Since ordinary people are angry towards the regime, corrupt officials like Deng Guida become the regime's only foundation. The regime simply cannot afford to lose such supporters by standing against Deng Guida. And if democracy does come to China, a majority of the CCP officials would be brought to justice.

On the other hand, if the CCP ignores the people's anger, discontent will only increase. That is why CCP seeks a third way; this is why the police in Badong County want to claim that Deng Yujiao has a mental problem.

As more and more people challenge this accusation that Yujiao has mental problems, the CCP will likely fall back upon strict methods. It will sentence Deng Yujiao to imprisonment fearing that any further compromise will allow the people to adopt Deng Yujiao as an exemplary figure.

The 'Nine Commentaries' is the book that is disintegrating the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and changing China. This award-winning Epoch Times editorial series discloses the true history and nature of the CCP. Now it is serialized here.

# Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party

## Commentary Seven

### On the Chinese Communist Party's history of killing

In the most serious famines in China's history prior to the CCP, there were cases in which families exchanged one another's children to eat, but nobody ever ate his own children. Under the CCP's reign, however, people were driven to eat those who died, cannibalize those who fled from other regions, and even kill and eat their own children.

The writer Sha Qing depicted this scene in his book "Yi Xi Da Di Wan" ("An Obscure Land of Bayou"): In a peasant's family, a daughter was left with only his son and daughter during the Great Famine. One day, the daughter was driven out of the house by her father. When she came back, she could not find her younger brother, but saw white oil floating in the cauldron and a pile of bones next to the stove.

Several days later, the father added more water to the pot, and

called his daughter to come closer. The girl was frightened and pleaded with her father from outside the door, "Daddy, please don't eat me. I can collect firewood and cook food for you. If you eat me, nobody else will do this for you."

The final extent and number of tragedies such as this are unknown. Yet the CCP misrepresented them as a noble honor, claimed that the CCP was leading people bravely to fight the "natural disasters," and continued to tout itself as "great, glorious, and correct."

After the Lushan Plenum was held in 1959, General Peng Dehuai was stripped of his power because he spoke out for the people. A group of government officials and cadres who dared to speak the truth were dismissed from their posts, detained or investigated. After that, no one dared to speak out the truth.

At the time of the Great Famine, instead of reporting the truth, officials concealed the facts about the deaths from starvation in order to protect their positions. Gansu Province even refused food aid from Shaanxi Province, claiming Gansu

## Officials concealed the facts about the deaths from starvation in order to protect their positions.

had too great a food surplus.

This Great Famine was also a qualifying test for the CCP's cadres. According to the CCP's criteria, the cadres who had resisted telling the truth in the face of tens of millions starving to death were certainly "qualified." With this test, the CCP would then believe that nothing such as human emotions or heavenly principles could become a psychological burden that would prevent these cadres from following the Party line.

After the Great Famine, the responsible provincial officials merely participated in the formality of self-criticism. Li Jingquan, the CCP Secretary for Sichuan Province where millions of people died from starvation, was promoted to be the first secretary of the southwestern

district bureau of the CCP.

### The cultural revolution, Tiananmen Square massacre, and Falun Gong

The Cultural Revolution was formally launched on May 16, 1966, and lasted until 1976. This period was called the "Ten-Year Catastrophe" even by the CCP itself. Later, in an interview with a Yugoslav reporter, former General Party Secretary Hu Yaobang said, "At that time, nearly 100 million people were implicated, which was one-tenth of the Chinese population."

"Facts of the Political Campaigns after the Founding of the People's Republic of China" reported that "In May 1984, after 31 months of intensive investigation, verification, and recalculation by the Central Committee of the CCP, the figures

related to the Cultural Revolution were: Over 4.2 million people were detained and investigated; over 1.73 million people died of unnatural causes; over 135,000 people were labeled as counter-revolutionaries and executed; over 237,000 people were killed, and over 7.03 million were disabled in armed attacks; and 71,200 families were destroyed." Statistics compiled from county annuals show that 7.73 million people died of unnatural causes during the Cultural Revolution.

In addition to beating people to death, the beginning of the Cultural Revolution also triggered a wave of suicides. Many famous intellectuals, including Lao She, Fu Lei, Jian Bozan, Wu Han, and Chu Anping, all ended their own lives at an early stage of the Cultural Revolution.

The Cultural Revolution was the most frenzied leftist period in China. Killing became a competitive way to exhibit one's revolutionary standing, so the slaughter of "class enemies" was extremely cruel and brutal.

Sha Qing, "Yi Xi Da Di Wan" ("An Obscure Land of Bayou") (1988).

## QUITTING THE CCP



Inspired by the 'Nine Commentaries', as of 21:26 EST, May 27th, 2009

54,948,518

Chinese people have announced their intentions to quit the Chinese Communist Party and its affiliated organizations on a special Web site established by The Epoch Times. Many others, unable to break through the Chinese Internet blockade, have posted their withdrawal statements on poles or buildings. Others have written them on Chinese currency. Read recent statements of Chinese quitting the Party, the latest news on the "Nine Commentaries," and more at

<http://www.NineCommentaries.com>