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QUITTING THE CCP



Inspired by the 'Nine Commentaries,' as of July 1, at 11:16 p.m.

56,676,653

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>

# Canadian human rights commissioner has free expression wrong

By JANET KEEPING

It is perfectly understandable that people disagree on how human rights statutes should be amended to best protect free expression. But a recent speech by Jennifer Lynch, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, should worry everyone for it reveals a serious misunderstanding of free expression.

To be fair, Lynch makes some valid points about the controversy over whether human rights agencies should have authority to punish offensive speech. Much, as she points out, of what has been said about human rights commissions is "inaccurate" or "unfair." For example, commentators have suggested complaints about offensive speech make up much of the commissions' work. In fact, in Alberta, such cases constitute 1 to 3% of the case-load. Across the country, it is not much different.

Some critics have even claimed that discrimination no longer occurs, so human rights commissions have no "legitimate" work left to do.

Tell that to the many women refused work or fired because they are pregnant. Legally, pregnancy discrimination is a form of gender discrimination, but many employers are good at making it look like something else. Aboriginal people, the disabled, gays and many others can provide plenty of evidence that discrimination, unfortunately, remains widespread.

But Lynch is wrong on some basic issues, most importantly on freedom of expression. She says that the "power (of words and ideas) while overwhelmingly positive, can also be used to undermine democracy, freedom and equality." For that reason "Canada, and many other nations, have enacted laws to limit forms of extreme hateful expression that have very minimal value in the free exchange of ideas, but do great harm to our fellow citizens."

In fact, most ideas are neither "overwhelmingly positive" nor harmful — they are trivial. It's not only "extreme hateful expression" that has "very minimal value." Just turn on the TV, go to nearly any blog or Twitter.

Why then is freedom of expression

so important? Because it is too dangerous to let people decide for others what they can say or hear — except in a few limited circumstances, where the harm is serious, and irreparable or imminent, such as, yelling "fire" in a crowded theatre.

Curtailling freedom of expression is no idle concern. For example, the reasoning behind the ruling that Reverend Stephen Boissin's letter to the editor violated Alberta's human rights statute was abysmal, the penalty imposed on him absurd. Boissin is banned, for life from expressing his sincere, religiously-founded opinion that homosexuality is evil. While I detest Boissin's opinions, giving a single human rights commissioner the power to shut you up forever because he or she thinks something you said is offensive or hateful is dangerously wrong. Boissin's views may have no social value, but what about the next visionary dissident with an unfashionable truth to tell?

The fact is that stifling people like Boissin will not make their views go away; it will only force them underground instead, where they can

fester, inspiring even worse down the road.

Lynch's opinion that "the modern concept of rights is that of a matrix with different rights and freedoms mutually reinforcing each other to build a strong and durable human rights system," invites us to think of freedom of expression as just another ingredient in an evolving recipe — a dash of equality here, a pinch of liberty there — for the perfect human rights concoction.

But freedom of speech is not just another human right. It has a pragmatic priority, because it is necessary for the realization of all other rights. Freedom is not more important than equality, but you will never have equality if you can't speak freely. Think of Iran: women there will never have equal rights, if their demands for them can't even be articulated.

Whatever good could possibly come of human rights commissions' censorship is vastly outweighed by these harms and can, in any event, be achieved through other means. We don't have to file human rights complaints to protest obnoxious

speech. We can shun the source of it, demonstrate or protest, make calls, send e-mails, and so on.

Lynch's remarks were disappointing in other ways. Here's one that especially rankles. The Alberta legislature recently confirmed the provincial commission's jurisdiction over offensive speech, but Lynch notes "not without a chorus of 'boos' from the far right." The Chumir Foundation, other organizations and individuals presented carefully constructed arguments against Alberta's hate speech provision. It is disrespectful to dismiss our reasoned objections as "boos" or to comment on the Alberta debate without adequate knowledge of it.

And to assume all Albertans are on the far right is to engage in the very stereotyping human rights commissions were set up to combat. We should demand better of our human rights commissioner.

Janet Keeping is the president of the Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership.

This article was first published in [www.troymedia.com](http://www.troymedia.com).

# Don't shut the door on Africa

By KANDEH K. YUMKELLA

VIENNA—These days, a dollar won't get you very far in a rich economy. But in a poor country like the one I come from, Sierra Leone, even half a dollar can save a life or feed an entire family. Every penny invested in Africa counts both today and to secure Africa's future.

Experts are unanimous: The financial, food, and energy crisis will hammer hardest the "bottom billion"—the poorest in some 60 countries that survive on around a dollar a day. Because of the crisis, many African countries are likely to miss the 2015 deadline for the Millennium Development Goal of poverty reduction.

The continent has made some significant socio-economic gains over the last decade. I've seen this for myself during recent travels to Benin, Ghana, Ethiopia, Egypt, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa. These gains include, to name a few, free-market reforms, liberalization of economies, the steady introduction of pro-business environments, the empowerment of women, and education.

But most of these gains are now seriously threatened.

## A failure to help the "bottom billion" could fuel mass migration and global insecurity.

The financial crisis has dealt a blow to remittances. Migrants are losing their jobs or struggling to set aside cash for their relatives back home. The World Bank's latest global economic outlook suggests remittances will fall by 5 percent to 8 percent this year.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg of the tens of millions that can be tracked. Foreign companies are pulling back capital, drying up import and export financing. Trade is declining. The unemployment rate, especially among disadvantaged groups—young people and women—is staggering. In Sierra

Leone alone, over 60 percent of the country's youth are jobless.

A failure to help the "bottom billion" could fuel mass migration and global insecurity. Ignoring the poorest nations means postponing a much larger crisis, which will lead to famine, unrest, and massive migration. Poverty is also an incubator for diseases, and the flow of legal and illegal migrants will carry them to rich nations.

Poverty is not just "their" problem. It is "our" problem too. If developing countries collapse, there will be millions knocking on our front doors, and the first port of call will be Europe. Such mass migration will severely hurt already strained social relations in some countries and lead to unpredictable consequences. Only a coordinated global response can guarantee that in the long run people from the poorest billion will visit Europe as tourists and business partners, not as asylum seekers.

Africa needs to do its share. It needs investments to shift away from a dependence on a donor-driven agenda and peasant-driven agriculture, and learn to compete on a global level. It can generate

sustainable growth through industrialization, and by creating a single market.

It needs to promote production and trade, expand agribusiness and agro-industries, and create wealth and new jobs. Agribusiness development can stimulate broader economic growth, boost regional trade, and at the same time enhance food security, and reduce poverty.

Globalization has been good to many in the developing world. At this critical moment, we can't allow this to fade away. We need to make this a more-inclusive process and make sure that financial resources keep flowing to Africa and the developing world so they continue integrating into the global economy; protectionism is avoided and markets stay open; the poorest nations can grow out of poverty through trade; there is good governance of natural resources to fuel broader and inclusive development.

The abundance of relevant experiences from the newly industrialized countries in Asia and elsewhere can show African countries how to galvanize their economies, accelerating the process of wealth creation and poverty reduction on

the continent.

It is still unclear exactly how much of the \$1 trillion pledged at the London G20 summit will find its way to Africa. That's why we need to keep an eye on the figures and keep reminding world leaders of the needs of those in the developing world who live in their shadow. This will set policy priorities straight, put strategies in place to avert a human catastrophe, and help Africa secure its rightful place at the global economic table.

Kandeh K. Yumkella is director general of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2009 ([www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)).

4 PUZZLES PEACE

Suggested Solution

I overslept by half an hour

Presented By



PUZZLE ON P3

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

### V. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FAMILY

We have no way to count how many people have been killed in the CCP's political campaigns. Among the people, there is no way to do a statistical survey because of information blocks and barriers among different regions, ethnic groups, and local dialects.

The CCP government would never conduct this kind of survey, as that would be the same as digging its own grave. The CCP prefers to omit the details when writing its own history.

The number of families damaged

by the CCP is even more difficult to know. In some cases, one person died and the family was broken. In other cases, the entire family died. Even when no one died, many were forced to divorce. Fathers and sons and mothers and daughters were forced to renounce their relationships. Some were disabled, some went crazy, and some died young because of serious illness caused by torture. The record of all these family tragedies is very incomplete.

The Japan-based Yomiuri News once reported that over half of the Chinese population has been persecuted by the CCP. If that is the case, the number of families destroyed by the CCP is estimated to be over 100 million.

Zhang Zhixin has become a household name, as her story has been widely reported. Many people know that she suffered physical torture, gang rape, and mental torture. Finally, she was driven insane and shot to death after a hole was

cut in her trachea. (With a hole cut in her trachea Zhang was unable to speak. When she was executed, she would appear to those present to have silently accepted her fate.) But many people may not know that there is another cruel story behind this tragedy—even her family members had to attend a "study session for the families of death row inmates."

Zhang Zhixin's daughter Lin Lin recalled that in the early spring of 1975: "A person from Shenyang Court said loudly, 'Your mother is a real die-hard counter-revolutionary. She refuses to accept reform and is incorrigibly obstinate. She is against our great leader Chairman Mao, against the invincible Mao Zedong thought, and against Chairman Mao's proletariat revolutionary direction. With one crime on top of another, our government is considering increasing the punishment. If she is executed, what is your attitude?'"

"I was astonished, and did not know how to answer. My heart was broken. But I pretended to be calm, trying hard to keep my tears from falling. My father had told me that we could not cry in front of others, otherwise we had no way to renounce our relationship with my mother. Father answered for me, 'If this is the case, the government is free to do what it deems necessary.'"

"The person from court asked again, 'Will you collect her body if she is executed? Will you collect her belongings in prison?' I lowered my head and said nothing. Father answered for me again, 'We don't need anything...' Father held my brother and me by the hands and we walked out of the county motel.

"Staggering along, we walked home against the howling snow storm. We did not cook; father split the only coarse corn bun we had at home and gave it to my brother and

me. He said, 'Finish it and go to bed early.' I lay on the clay bed quietly. Father sat on a stool and stared at the light in a daze. After a while, he looked at the bed and thought we were all asleep. He stood up, gently opened the suitcase we brought from our old home in Shenyang, and took out mother's photo. He looked at it and could not hold back his tears.

"I got up from bed, put my head into father's arms and started crying loudly. Father patted me and said, 'Don't do that; we cannot let the neighbors hear it.' My brother woke up after hearing me cry. Father held my brother and me tightly in his arms. This night we did not know how many tears we shed, but we could not cry freely."

<sup>1</sup> Laogai Research Foundation (Oct. 12, 2004). "Report: Children among victims of Falun Gong persecution." <http://www.laogai.org/news2/newsdetail.php?id=391> (in Chinese).

Letters to the Editor



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