

CHINA'S NEW "TWO-CHILD POLICY" AND THE  
CONTINUATION OF MASSIVE CRIMES AGAINST  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN

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COMMISSION ON CHINA  
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CONTINUATION OF MASSIVE CRIMES  
AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

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**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015**

CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE  
COMMISSION ON CHINA,  
*Washington, DC.*

The hearing was convened, pursuant to notice, at 10:02 a.m., in Room HVC 210, Capitol Visitor Center, Hon. Christopher Smith, Chairman, presiding.

Also Present: Representatives Pittinger, Lieu, Hultgren, Pitts, and Hartzler; and Senators Brown and Daines.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CHRISTOPHER SMITH, A U.S.  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW JERSEY; CHAIRMAN, CON-  
GRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA**

Chairman SMITH. Good morning to everybody.

The Chinese Government has spent the past 35 years telling couples what their families must look like.

Thirty-five years of state-sponsored violence against women, including coerced abortions and involuntary sterilizations, in the name of population control.

Thirty-five years of viewing children as excess baggage from the day they are conceived, particularly the girl child.

Thirty-five years of wasting precious human capital and potential, and 35 years of committing massive crimes against women and children, enabled by pro-abortion, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations Population Fund, or the UNFPA.

Despite the platitude and applause by some being heaped on China's announced two-child policy, the proposal does not change the basic structure of coercive population control, and it is not some major reversal of policy to be lauded.

And, this so-called reform is not even a done deal yet. According to the world-famous demographer, Dr. Nicholas Eberstadt, who will testify today, the one-child policy may become a two-child policy, but the coercive population control apparatus remains unchanged.

Dr. Eberstadt says, "To be clear," and I quote him here, "that shift has not yet taken place. To the contrary, just days after the October 29 announcement, China's National Health and Family Planning Commission, which oversees the population program, emphasized that the new norms were not yet, 'valid' and described the two-child policy as a 'proposal,' indicating furthermore that 'this

proposal would have to be approved by Beijing's legislature next year before it might eventually be enacted."

That said, the two-child policy may allow for more births, if enacted, at some future date, but it does not remove the pernicious incentives given the local officials to pressure and force mothers to abort a child if the birth has not been approved by the state or is the couple's third child.

Chinese families are still not free to determine the size of their own families, nor does this policy erase the enormous physical and psychological damage imposed on women done by three-and-a-half decades of highly coercive birth limitations.

We should not be applauding China's policy. We should be insisting, however, that they abolish all birth limits forever.

Chen Guangcheng, the famous Chinese legal advocate and human rights champion, calls China's population control policies genocide. He calls for an international tribunal to vigorously investigate these crimes against humanity. And Mr. Chen calls on the Obama administration to enforce existing U.S. law and bar Chinese officials associated with the policy from entry to the United States.

I would note parenthetically that I wrote that law in 2000. The Admiral Nance-Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Act, there was a provision of that law, and I wrote it, and the Obama administration has completely and utterly failed to enforce and implement its provisions.

Today we are sending another letter—and I have asked this at multiple hearings over the last several years—asking the President to just simply implement the law, which he has not done. And, hopefully, we will get an answer back at least giving a reason why they have chosen not to implement a human rights law.

The Chinese Government is not the only one culpable in this heinous crime against women and children. The U.N. Population Fund [UNFPA], as we know, helped fund birth restrictions, fund forced abortions and a massive and coercive family planning bureaucracy.

Several years ago I had a face-to-face meeting in Beijing with Madame Peng Pei-yun, the bureaucrat in charge of China's draconian population program. Madame Peng repeatedly told me that my concerns about coercion were unfounded and said the UNFPA was there. They were on the ground and found no coercion whatsoever. Of course, that is a complete whitewash.

The UNFPA has whitewashed China's crimes for decades and continues to do so today. On their website, the UNFPA justifies its history in China, saying that they were tasked by the executive committee to help China and had to engage with China as a sovereign nation.

Since 1994, the UNFPA claims that their efforts have focused on getting China to adopt a rights-based approach to family planning, saying they oppose coercion, violence, forced abortion, and sterilization as a violation of basic human rights.

Yet there is absolutely no evidence that their efforts made one bit of difference in changing China's policy. And again, part of the answer to critics like myself and others has always been the UNFPA is here, on the ground, and they give us a clean bill of health.

The UNFPA, I would submit, is complicit in China's coercive population control policies. The United States and others who help fund the UNFPA programs in China are also complicit. It is a dark and bloody stain that cannot be washed away.

I would note again that the Kemp-Kasten law, current law, it will be repeated again even in the Omnibus Bill that will be adopted probably by the end of next week, continues the UNFPA ban via the Kemp-Kasten, which requires a due-diligence effort by the administration, which they have not done, and they just send a check to New York without even going through the motions.

I hope China will abolish all aspects of its horrific birth control policy as soon as possible, and it ought to be looking to compensate its victims. For me and many others opposed to this policy, it is a matter of justice and human rights. For the Chinese Government, it is now becoming increasingly a matter of economic survival.

China's government says it is instituting a two-child policy to stem the twin demographic time bombs of a rapidly aging population and millions of men unable to find wives. But this new policy is unlikely to solve those problems.

As the Economist has noted, by 2025 nearly one in four Chinese citizens will be over the age of 60. At the same time, China's working-age population has shrunk in each of the past three years. These factors are likely to hurt not only the government balance sheets, but also economic growth in China.

This should be of particular concern to the Chinese Communist Party, as economic growth is the primary source of their ill-begotten legitimacy.

The minimal policy change announced in October will do little to address the three decades-plus decimation of the female population.

Approximately 40 million women and girls—and I think the number is far higher, perhaps millions more—are missing from the population. A policy that can only be accurately described as gendercide; the extermination of the girl child in society—simply because she happens to be a girl. The lack of girls has led to a dramatically skewed gender ratio. An estimated 30-plus million—some say 40—will be unable to find wives in the coming decades. I mean, that is unbelievable, and that has become a magnet for human trafficking.

The Chinese Government should be concerned, as should China's neighbors, as to the consequences of this. It is a ticking time bomb. We now see more human trafficking and forced marriages and sexual slavery. NGOs working in Vietnam, Cambodia, Burma, have all reported an increase in trafficking of women and girls into China in recent years. And even if China ends its birth restrictions, given its current demographics, this problem of the shortage of women in China will only get worse in the coming decade.

I would like to now yield to Mr. Pittenger, a Commissioner, for any comments he might have.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT PITTENGER, A U.S.  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM NORTH CAROLINA**

Representative PITTENGER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your leadership in such a grave concern to each of us.

I returned from China. I was there this fall, meeting with the leadership in Beijing and Shanghai and Shenzhen, with business leaders and government leaders, and had formal and informal discussions regarding issues related to human rights, religious liberties, freedoms of conscience, and, yes, the issues related to forced abortions.

On one occasion, one of the leaders quietly lamented to me that they felt that this policy was horrific and should hopefully be changed in their culture. And they saw the impact that it had on women's lives and was a real dark stain upon their culture. So my hope and prayer is that that will take place.

However, the Chinese Government has shown blatant disregard for these basic human rights of their people. These thinly veiled offenses against freedom of the press, expression, religion, and speech, as well as their focused attacks on international entities and human rights advocates paint a picture of a stifling and oftentimes terrifying life for the Chinese people.

China's population control policies are perhaps the most widely known offense. These policies are particularly egregious and are arguably the most systemically and heavily enforced in the world, with severe emotional and physical harm on women.

China's national and provincial family planning laws and regulations stipulate if, when, and how often Chinese citizens may bear children. At the local level, enforcement of population control policies has led to reports of traumatic violations of individual rights, including forced abortions, sterilizations, involuntary implantation of birth control devices, and illegal children going unregistered.

Last month, China announced that their one-child policy would become a two-child policy. While this change shows that the Chinese Government recognized the failure of its policy, it is, frankly, not enough.

With a rapidly aging population, shrinking workforce and a large cohort of young men who will be unable to establish families, China's continued adherence to its population control policies—not only does it violate international human rights standards, but goes against China's own interest.

We must continue unwaveringly to take a firm stand in opposition to China's population control policies, using every reasonable resource available to facilitate their abolition.

Thank you.

Chairman SMITH. Representative Lieu?

**STATEMENT OF HON. TED LIEU, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM CALIFORNIA**

Representative LIEU. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Last month I had an opportunity to go to Hong Kong, Beijing, and Tibet with Leader Pelosi, on a CODEL. We raised issues of religious freedom, autonomy in Tibet, and human rights across China. It has been widely acknowledged that China's one-child policy has been a disaster.

I look forward to hearing from the witnesses what they think of China's new policy, which also continues to restrict human freedom.

Thank you.



Chairman SMITH. Thank you very much, Mr. Lieu.  
Commissioner Hultgren?

**STATEMENT OF HON. RANDY HULTGREN, A U.S.  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM ILLINOIS**

Representative HULTGREN. I do not have much but a comment—and that is, this is such an important subject for us to be discussing, to figure out ways that we as Members of Congress can highlight, really, the tragedy, the loss that has happened there, and the need for change of policy—real change in policy, not just talk. So I am looking forward to hearing from our witnesses.

I yield back.

Chairman SMITH. Thank you.

The distinguished gentlelady from Missouri, Vicki Hartzler.

**STATEMENT OF HON. VICKI HARTZLER, A U.S.  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM MISSOURI**

Representative HARTZLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just glad to be able to be a part today of this very important discussion and hope that we will be able to advocate and do something to help the women and the families of China be able to determine their own futures.

Thank you.

Chairman SMITH. Thank you very much.

I would like to introduce our distinguished panel, beginning with Dr. Nicholas Eberstadt, who is the Henry Wendt Scholar in Political Economy at The American Enterprise Institute. A political economist and demographer by training, he is a senior adviser to the National Bureau of Asian Research and has served on the visiting committee at the Harvard School of Public Health, the Global Leadership Council, the World Economic Forum, and the President's Council on Bioethics. He has also served as a consultant to the World Bank, Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Bureau of the Census.

Ms. Reggie Littlejohn is founder and president of Women's Rights Without Frontiers, a broad-based international coalition that opposes forced abortion and sexual slavery in China. Ms. Littlejohn is an acclaimed expert on China's one-child policy, having testified six times before the U.S. Congress, three times before the European Parliament, and presented at the British, Irish, and Canadian Parliaments as well.

She has briefed officials at the White House, Department of State, United Nations, and the Vatican. Her Save-a-Girl Campaign has saved more than 150 baby girls from sex-selective abortion or grinding poverty in China.

Ms. Jennifer Li lived in China for many years and is cofounder of China Life Alliance, a network of individuals, churches, and ministries who seek to protect the lives of millions in China who are threatened by abortion, infanticide, abandonment, and human trafficking.

They do this by educating and mobilizing groups to rescue women and save children through their safe house network, legal aid network, coercive abortion rescue teams, and in a variety of other ways.

We will then hear from Ms. Sarah Huang, who has personally rescued more than 80 Chinese women and children threatened by abortion, infanticide, abandonment, and trafficking.

Since 2013, international media has covered the efforts of Sarah, a humble pastor in China who has been nicknamed the Mother Teresa of China. And she courageously assists vulnerable women who must hide their pregnancies to escape coercive abortions from Chinese family planning cadres.

Sarah has been working closely behind the scenes with China Life Alliance and has been pivotal in assisting numerous Chinese families, including a number of widely reported forced abortion cases that have been leaked into the international media.

Sarah Li is currently pregnant with her second child and now experiencing her own battle to save the life of her unborn child from a mandatory abortion.

We will then hear from Mr. Steven Mosher, who is president of the Population Research Institute and has worked tirelessly since 1979 to fight coercive population control programs. He is an internationally recognized authority on China and population issues. He served as director of the Asian Study Center at the Claremont Institute from 1986 to 1995 and was appointed in 1991 to serve as commissioner of the U.S. Commission on Broadcasting to the PRC.

Following a period of naval service in 1979, he became the first American social scientist permitted to do research in China since the Communist revolution. And I would note that it was Steven Mosher who broke the story to the world and to Congress about what was going on, and his books and his writings brought the bright line of scrutiny to this infamous policy. And that was in the early 1980s. So I want to thank Dr. Mosher for that leadership.

Dr. Eberstadt?

**STATEMENT OF HENRY EBERSTADT, HENRY WENDT SCHOLAR  
IN POLITICAL ECONOMY, AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INTSTITUTE**

Mr. EBERSTADT. Mr. Chairman, Members of Congress, distinguished co-panelists and esteemed guests, it is an honor and a pleasure to be here with you today. With your permission, I would like to ask that a recent Wall Street Journal op-ed I did on this same subject be added to the record.

Chairman SMITH. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. EBERSTADT. On October 29 of this year, a shift from a one-child to a two-child norm was announced by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party at the 5th Plenum of the 18th Party Congress. In other words, the Party signaled that it would be abandoning the one-child policy it had promulgated and would now be moving to allow all parents in China to have two children.

To be clear, as the Chairman has already indicated, that shift has not yet taken place. Suffice it to say that the particulars of the new two-child policy thus still remain to be seen. It is not too soon, however, to make a few basic points.

First, the end of the one-child policy will not mean the end of coercive birth control in China. This is a critical fact that cannot be underscored sufficiently.

The Chinese Government is not retiring its enormous apparatus of involuntary population plan enforcement. Beijing is not relin-

quishing its claim that the state rather than parents should be the proper authority for deciding how many children China's families may have. Instead, the Chinese Communist Party is merely preparing to recalibrate the birth restrictions it will impose on its subjects.

By all indications, the sorts of ugly human rights violations that other witnesses will be describing here this morning, up to and including criminalizing out-of-quota pregnancies and forcibly compelling abortions against the will of the mother, will still be very much part and parcel of China's population policy agenda.

Second, any two-child norm would necessarily and inescapably still expose parents who desire more than two children to coercive birth control. For China's population planners, there is no contradiction whatsoever between raising the permissible birth quota and deploying the power of the state against birth quota violators.

Third, in addition to its obvious demographic focus, China's population program should be understood to serve more broadly as an instrument of population control, in the more general sense of social control. And it is not a stand-alone policy in China in this regard.

We must bear in mind contemporary China's *hukou* system of household registration and residence permits, the likes of which is only seen otherwise today in the DPRK, i.e., North Korea.

At this writing, a distinct majority of the young men and women in China's big cities, thanks to this *hukou* program, are de facto illegal aliens in their own country for violating these established *hukou* rules. I can show you a little graphic of this on the slide over there. The blue and red are the non-*hukou* residents in big cities. The transparent is the legal residents in big cities.

The *hukou* violators do not have rights to social services in their new locales. They cannot move their families with them. They are discriminated against economically in the cities and they will always, always lose in any dispute with locals. It is akin to Soweto with Chinese characteristics.

One might think that the obvious solution to this problem would be to relax the *hukou* restrictions or to scrap them altogether. But despite considerable talk of *hukou* reform over the past two decades in Beijing, Chinese authorities have shown extreme reluctance to do away with the *hukou* system and practice.

Given both the nature of Chinese rule and the traditions that predate it, we should not be surprised if authorities in Beijing prove similarly surprisingly attached to coercive population policy precisely because of the social control it affords the rulers over the ruled.

Fourth, it is worth noting that some Chinese researchers and academics are already calling for more aggressive measures to stimulate population growth. Is it possible that Beijing might reverse course in the future and veer from anti-natal to pro-natal coercive birth control?

Steven Mosher is here this morning and I do not want to steal any of Steve's thunder, but I would be a plagiarist if I did not quote him on what he has written about this.

Steve has said "the same Party officials who have been responsible for decades of forced abortions and sterilizations would pre-

sumably have no qualms over enforcing mandatory pregnancy on young women, if they were ordered to do so.”

Finally, among the many unanswered questions concerning coercive birth control in China, the most important and perhaps also surprising is its ultimate demographic impact.

Strange as this may sound, demographers and population specialists have yet to offer a plausible and methodologically defensible estimate of just how much this extraordinarily ambitious and ruthless adventure in social engineering has actually altered the size and composition of China’s population. I have submitted some slides and some additional testimony on this matter.

Let me just conclude by saying forcible birth control looks to be the Chinese Government’s preferred policy path for the indefinite future. What is incontestable is that this path guarantees systematic human rights abuse. Much less well understood is what impact forcible population control stands to exert on the demographic rhythms of Chinese society. Demographic specialists need to pay much more attention to this question than they have to date.

Thank you.

Chairman SMITH. Dr. Eberstadt, thank you so very much.

Ms. Littlejohn?

[The prepared statement and op-ed of Mr. Eberstadt appear in the appendix.]

**STATEMENT OF REGGIE LITTLEJOHN, FOUNDER AND  
PRESIDENT, WOMEN’S RIGHTS WITHOUT FRONTIERS**

Ms. LITTLEJOHN. Honorable members of the Commission, Representative Chris Smith, Mr. Pittenger, Mr. Lieu, Mr. Hultgren, I am grateful for this opportunity to testify here today as we discuss China’s new two-child policy, which continues the massive crimes against women and children under the one-child policy.

Xinhua News Agency reported on October 29 that China is moving from a one-child policy to a two-child policy, and used the word that they were “abandoning” the one-child policy. That word is extremely misleading.

The two-child policy will not end any of the human rights abuses that were caused by the one-child policy, including forced abortions, forced sterilizations as well as the sex-selective abortion of baby girls.

Coercion and control remain at the core of the two-child policy, just as it was under the one-child policy. As Chen Guangcheng succinctly tweeted, “there is nothing to be happy about. First, the CCP would kill any baby after one. Now they kill any baby after two.”

It appears, therefore, that China plans to maintain its iron grip over the wombs of women. The Chinese Communist Party will continue to intrude into the bedrooms and between the sheets of the people of China, requiring an arduous process to get a birth permit, a system of paid informants and ultrasound checks to make sure that a woman’s IUD is still in place.

Women’s Rights Without Frontiers has a network of field workers in one area of rural China, and I have been in communication with the head of that network over the weekend. I want to report to you from our network on the ground in China what the response is in rural China, in our area, to this two-child policy.

And the response is that it is no big deal whatsoever, and it is not going to resolve the problems in the countryside of China.

The main reason for this is because of the continued threat of forced sterilization, so that if a woman has a son, she is not likely then to get pregnant again, because she has her son. And if she has a second child, she is going to be forcibly sterilized. These forced sterilizations not only ruin a woman's reproductive health. They ruin a woman's general health as well.

According to my network, a woman—before she is sterilized, women as well as men do hard labor on the farms. After they are sterilized, a woman cannot even pump water out of the well. And this lasts forever. The woman is permanently disabled from doing hard farm labor, and this is a huge, catastrophic event for her family and the villages.

Especially a woman whose first child is a girl is going to feel that she has to hide her second pregnancy, because if it is a boy, she is going to be forcibly sterilized after giving birth. But even if it is another girl, she does not want the authorities to know about this because, number one, she will be forcibly sterilized if she gives birth to this girl, or when she gives birth to the girl, and number two, she wants to preserve the ability to have a boy.

So these second daughters are either aborted—that is what happens a lot of the time—or abandoned, or hidden so that they have no *hukou*, so that the woman can then give birth, have a third pregnancy if she has two girls.

*Hukou* in our area is only given to a second child after the mother has submitted to sterilization. So the forced abortions are continuing under the new two-child policy, because women who are pregnant now, who have gotten pregnant before the new two-child policy takes effect, if it does, in fact, take effect, are still considered to be illegally pregnant; and we are going to be hearing from Sarah Huang, who is in precisely that situation.

According to our network, if a woman is caught illegally pregnant and cannot pay the fine, she is still going to be forcibly aborted, as was the case under the one-child policy.

According to the president of a local hospital and a family planning official contacted by our network, if a woman runs away because she knows that she is illegally pregnant and she is caught, she absolutely will be forcibly aborted. She will not be given any opportunity to pay a fine.

In our village, whether or not a woman is actually forcibly aborted or given the opportunity to pay the fine depends on a couple of factors. One is, How powerful is the woman? Does she have any resources? Poor women, women whose families are not connected to the Chinese Communist Party, are much more likely to be forcibly aborted than a woman of means or a woman whose family members work for the Party.

And similarly, the enforcement of the one-child policy is extremely arbitrary, and it really depends on who the family planning official is that shows up at your door. There are people who will be merciful and give the woman an opportunity to pay a fine and there are people who are merciless and will not give the opportunity to pay a fine.

Women in our villages have resorted to desperate measures to avoid a forced abortion when faced with an illegal pregnancy.

Chairman SMITH. Pardon me. Ms. Littlejohn?

Ms. LITTLEJOHN. Yes.

Chairman SMITH. There are seven votes on the floor. We are at zero right now for the first one—we are at least 30 seconds to go. We will take a brief recess, and I apologize to our witnesses and to people who have come out, but we will resume as soon as those votes are over.

If one or two of our Senators, because we understand a few are on their way, they will resume the hearing and then we will just pick it up when we—

Ms. LITTLEJOHN. Okay.

Chairman SMITH. Thank you.

[Whereupon at 10:30 a.m. the hearing was recessed.]

AFTER RECESS [11:17 A.M.]

Ms. LITTLEJOHN. Okay, so you want me to continue now?

Senator DAINES. You know, we are going to keep moving forward, yeah, so I will chair here until the House Members come back. I came over from the Senate side here.

Ms. LITTLEJOHN. Thank you so much.

Senator DAINES. Absolutely. So, I am Senator Steve Daines from the State of Montana.

Ms. LITTLEJOHN. It is a pleasure to meet you—

Senator DAINES. No, very glad to have you here. I lived in China for five years, working for Procter & Gamble, back in the 1990s. So I had two children born in Hong Kong and have a lot of interest in this subject and some experience of the underground there as well.

So anyway, Ms. Littlejohn, continue.

Ms. LITTLEJOHN. Okay. So what I was talking about is Women's Rights Without Frontiers has a network of field workers in rural China, and I was talking about the reactions of women in rural China to the new two-child policy. And I was about to tell a story about how women get around the forced abortion that is still required under the two-child policy.

I understand that the following situation is common in our area. Ai Bao, which is not her real name, is a second daughter. And when her mother found out that she was pregnant, she went into hiding because she did not have a birth permit.

However, she was discovered, and so when the family planning police tried to forcibly abort her, what she did is she found another woman who was also illegally pregnant but who was an unwed mother. Unwed mothers are never given the opportunity to even pay a fine or anything.

She paid that woman 2,000 yuan to have an abortion in her name so that she could then use that woman's abortion certificate and hand it to the family planning police. So once they had that abortion certificate, she went into hiding and was able to give birth to her second daughter.

These are the kinds of desperate measures that people will take to avoid the forced abortion under the one-child policy.

Also, instituting a two-child policy will not end gendercide in China. As people in this hearing no doubt know, there are approximately 37 million more men living in China than women, and that the birth ratio of men and women, or boys and girls, is about 117 boys born for every 100 girls born. This is not going to improve, in my opinion, under the two-child policy, because of the specter of forced sterilization.

Many women whose first child is a boy may choose not to bear a second child because of the expense of having children in China; and because, in our area, you cannot get *hukou* for the second child without a sterilization. And these women do not want to be sterilized because it breaks their health.

Similarly, women whose first child is a girl are going to hide the second pregnancy, because if they give birth to another girl, they want to have the opportunity to have another pregnancy to have a boy. And also they do not want to be sterilized, because if you have a second girl, you will also be sterilized or else you will not get *hukou*.

In addition, there is a technology that is potentially dangerous to girls that has found its way to China. It has recently been discovered that cell-free DNA can be found in the blood of a pregnant mother.

And so they have developed this test called non-invasive prenatal testing. The ominous acronym for this is NIPT. And I could not help but think of “nipped in the bud,” because this is a new way to detect chromosomal abnormalities, and it can be used even as early as seven weeks. But people already are using it to determine the gender of a fetus. And I just worry that when brutal son-preference meets with non-invasive blood test technology, many, many millions are girls are going to be aborted.

The *hukou* abuses continue. Our network reports that in our area, unless a woman is sterilized, her second child will be denied *hukou*. Without *hukou*, children are denied access to health care, education, and other public benefits.

There has been recent talk about registering 13 million people who do not have *hukou*. The motive here appears to be an attempt to make the population look less unbalanced. But Women’s Rights Without Frontiers demands the unconditional end of the *hukou* system as being inhumane.

Eliminating *hukou* by itself, however, will not end gendercide unless it is accompanied by the elimination of the forced sterilization that still occurs after the second pregnancy.

Women will not register a second daughter for *hukou* if, by doing so, they are going to be giving up the chance to have a son.

So some have publicly wondered what will happen to the army of family planning officials now that China has “abolished” the one-child policy. This question in itself is overly optimistic. The two-child policy remains just as coercive as the former one-child policy. This infrastructure of coercion can be turned to crush dissent in any area.

There is growing unrest inside China. Internal Chinese law enforcement data on so-called mass incidents indicates that China has seen a sustained, rapid increase in these incidents from 8,700 in 1993 to nearly 60,000 in 2003 to more than 120,000 in 2008.

Meanwhile, there are as many as 1 million family planning officials in China. This 1 million army, if it were a standing army, would tie with North Korea as being the sixth-largest standing army in the world.

Given the unrest that is happening in China, does the army of family planning officials, does the Chinese Communist Party regard this as being necessary to keep down social unrest in China? Therefore, I believe that the Chinese Communist Party will never relinquish coercive population control.

As fully explained in my congressional testimony of April 30 of this year, I believe that the Chinese Communist Party might slowly open up the one-child policy, but they will never abandon coercive birth control because, number one, it enables them to maintain their grip on power through terror. It is social control masquerading as population control.

Number two, coercive population control is a lucrative profit center, bringing in as much as \$314 billion in fines since its inception.

Number three, it provides an infrastructure of coercion that can be turned to crush dissent of any sort.

And number four, it ruptures relationships of trust so that people cannot organize—because if you do not know who you can trust, you cannot organize for democracy.

Sending out the message that China has abandoned its one-child policy is detrimental to sincere efforts to stop forced abortion and gendercide in China because this message implies that the one-child policy is no longer a problem.

In a world laden with compassion fatigue, people are relieved to cross China's one-child policy off their list of things to worry about, but we must not do that. Let us not abandon the women and the babies of China who continue to face forced abortion and forced sterilization and the girls who continue to face sex-selective abortion and abandonment under the new two-child policy.

The one-child policy does not need to be modified. It needs to be abolished.

Thank you.

Senator DAINES. I think we are going to go next to Ms. Huang, actually.

[Pause.]

Ms. Huang, you have to turn on your microphone.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Littlejohn appears in the appendix.]

#### **STATEMENT OF SARAH HUANG, WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCATE**

Ms. HUANG [through interpreter]. Greetings, Honorable Chairman, Congressman Smith, Cochairman Senator Rubio, members of the CECC and distinguished guests. I am honored to have this opportunity to share my painful story.

And I am grateful for this country, which has provided the necessary leadership in promoting human rights throughout the world, including working with the international community to persuade countries like China to adhere to international law and universal values on the protection of human dignity.

Since the beginning of this nation, the United States has had a great history of leading the way in protecting human rights from



the Declaration of Independence, which states that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

President Obama has even spoken on the importance of answering the responsibility to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Speaking up for others is one of my core values and one of many reasons why my husband and I continually open our hearts and home to the vulnerable and the voiceless.

America, you have a choice. You can choose to speak up for the innocent, or stay silent. In my country, women are told they cannot speak out for their own bodies or for the children in the womb.

In China, the struggle is not about pro-life or pro-choice, but about enduring torture or enduring strict punishment for disobeying. It is because of this that my phones ring constantly by the very few women that are courageous enough to defy the policy, to keep the child.

These strangers frequently call me and say, “I am pregnant and I have no options. I was told you can help me to keep my child.” Of course, I try to help them all. Unfortunately, I am just as busy now with the Chinese Government’s newly announced two-child policy as I was with the infamous one-child policy.

Although there is an expert here today that will share—in more detail, please allow me to share briefly about the statistics.

Chinese Government data reports that 30 million abortions are performed each year for an average rate of 35,000 per day. I personally believe the number is much higher. Because these official statistics only include hospitals that report their figures and the most abortions occur in unauthorized “black clinics” or at home.

One reason why we think the number of abortions is considerably higher is because China is a shame-based culture. Chinese families do not want the attention of going to an official abortion clinic where they are required to register or show their I.D.

As a result, most Chinese women who receive abortions choose to do it anonymously at the unregistered clinics known as “black clinics.”

Now I am going to briefly share my pregnancy story. My husband and I have wanted a second child for many years, so after finding out we were pregnant, we were of course very happy, especially when we heard that the one-child policy has been abolished and thought that our problems had been solved. We even heard in the news that everyone in China can now have a second child.

Although we were skeptical, our immediate reaction was to rejoice, as this would mean a lot more babies born to families that wanted to keep them. We thought our problems were solved, until we heard from my husband’s employer, the Chinese Government, that abortion would be mandatory until we present the proof that I had this IUD installed.

So my husband was threatened that if I failed to present this proof that I had the IUD installed, then I would be subject to forced abortion. According to my experience and observation, this newly announced two-child policy is not applicable to every family and every couple, because this policy has not been completely implemented yet.

For example, it does not apply to my case, nor to those families who are currently in hiding in China. The new announced two-child policy is not completely bad. A majority, but not all families, will meet the criteria and be allowed to keep their second child. However, clearly China's change to a two-child policy is not enough.

Chinese families who attempt to have two children could still be subject to coercive and intrusive forms of contraception and forced abortions, which amount to torture.

Another common myth is that China's brutal Family Planning Bureau has been dissolved, thus removing all of its corrupt practices and acts of impunity. But it is not true; it just has simply been renamed.

Although I do not doubt there may be some positive changes, the truth is that the same Party members that worked for the Family Planning Bureau are now employed by the National Health and Family Planning Bureau. This organization still maintains a strict quota-based system that drives employees to abuse others in order to protect their jobs.

Another observation relates to the "black clinics." They are unregistered abortion clinics that typically have illegal ultrasound machines that tell expectant parents the gender of the child.

These clinics offer a variety of services from gender identification to late-term abortions, with all services offered on an anonymous basis.

Now I do believe that things will change, but how many must suffer before that happens? I hope that many years from now our children's children will remember us as the generation that did something about this great tragedy. Because we are the ones who are aware of what is happening in China. We have this responsibility to take action.

I will also pray that the day will come where China will no longer coercively control women's wombs. I believe this is one of the most tragic events of the modern world's history. Can you imagine the history books revealing that the Chinese Government, through their one- and then two-child policies having killed more babies and brutalized more women than such events as the Plague or both World Wars combined?

These tragedies are happening, and if we do not do something, I ask who will? If we do not say something, again, who will?

Thank you.

Senator DAINES. Thank you for your testimony, Ms. Huang.

Ms. Li.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Huang appears in the appendix.]

#### **STATEMENT OF JENNIFER LI, COFOUNDER, CHINA LIFE ALLIANCE**

Ms. LI. Senator Daines and members of the Commission, I am honored to be here today and to speak with you from my personal experience of China and the new two-child policy.

I moved to China seven years ago with my husband, and I was eager to learn the language and culture of this amazing land. We knew at the time that a one-child policy existed, but were unaware

of the significance of it. We also knew that boys were the more desirable gender.

And as time passed, we began to look around us, and we noticed on the way to school in the morning, on the backs of parents' bicycles, on the backs of grandparents' bicycles, two boys for every girl. We would see children exercising in the schoolyards and we noticed the same thing—boys in great number and much fewer girls.

We began to ask questions of each other and of our friends. Where are all the girls? Where are the children with disabilities? Do these families want more than one child, or are they satisfied?

As our language skills increased and as we began to make friends among locals, we learned couples were being pressured in draconian ways to manage their family size through abortions. It was hard to believe, and we did not want to, but it was real.

Despite it being illegal to tell parents the gender of an unborn baby, thousands of black-market abortion clinics that Sarah referred to are enabling parents to have gender-selective abortions every day.

As to the question, do they want more than one child, hundreds of Chinese people have answered me this question personally and said yes, I wish I could have as many children as I want, but I cannot.

Every single day, as I would walk the streets with my children, I would be told how lucky I was to have many children. And people would bemoan to me the fact that their government would only let them have one.

We can call it a one-child policy; we can call it a two-child policy. We can call it whatever we want, but we cannot deny the reality that China's population control policy leaves men and women across the country without basic human reproductive rights and leaves millions of babies dead at the hand of anxious relatives, sold on the black market, or dead on abortion tables.

As our awareness of this heartbreak grew, so did our desire to help. It started off as helping a few friends who were pregnant. We realized quickly that this was not pro-life work as we understood it in America.

In America, when volunteering at U.S. pregnancy resource centers, I was taught to tell people that they had options. In China, there were no options.

As we embraced our friends, our burden grew and we, along with a small group of Chinese friends, started a coalition for the purpose of helping pregnant women who wanted to keep their babies.

After starting a variety of baby-saving initiatives and enduring great hardships, we partnered with churches and nonprofit groups to form the China Life Alliance, a coalition of Chinese citizens who rescue thousands of babies each year before they are abandoned, sold, or killed.

We do this through education, through safe houses, through legal aid, through financial aid, and whatever other creative solutions our team comes up with.

Over the years, we have seen unimaginable horrors. This has been the greatest and most difficult cause of our life. I would like to share with you two stories, before we are through, of my close personal friends. Though their stories happened under what we call

the one-child policy, under this new child policy, their outcome would not be changed at all.

First, I want to talk to you about Ivy. Ivy was a single college student when she discovered that she was pregnant by her married professor. The consequences for Ivy, when she chose to give birth to her daughter and not abort or abandon her, were severe. Ivy was expelled from college and her daughter was denied a *hukou*, or birth certificate, which meant she could never go to school, never be treated at a hospital or travel.

Ivy is one of the most courageous women I know. Because she was a single mother, Ivy could not get a government-sanctioned job. She worked for a pittance and found under-the-table work to do. She had no support and no man would marry her because under the one-child policy, he would not be able to have a child of his own with her.

Her daughter is now a vivacious 16-year-old with dreams of attending Harvard. And Ivy works with the China Life Alliance helping other women who find themselves single and pregnant.

My second story is about Grace, who had a daughter born with Down Syndrome. This story is felt deeply by me because I am a mother of a child with a disability.

Population control puts dramatic pressure on parents of disabled children. Grace is from a minority people group which, owing to their rural situation, is allowed to have two children.

The pressure to have both children be healthy and male in order to earn income for the family proved to be too much for their family. When the baby was five days old and still receiving oxygen from a tank, her grandmother locked Grace out of the house and attempted to kill the baby by unplugging her oxygen for eight hours.

Miraculously, the baby survived and Grace called my Chinese friend and me and we helped them think through options and reasons to save their baby's life. Repeatedly, as we sat there with the grandparents and the parents, we heard them say, it would not be a big deal if we could just have another child. But because this one imperfect child counted as part of their quota, the family economics made the choice to keep her impossible.

It is challenging for me to stay composed when I share these stories. I see their tears and I feel their fears. I hold their hands and I hold their story in my heart. I want the world to see the heart-break that population control has brought to the people of beautiful China.

But we rejoice for those who will now be able to have two children instead of one. I believe we must continue to speak up for the rights of the men, women, and children whose lives are so deeply affected by this policy and the attempts to control their reproductive rights.

As we ask what we can do and how we can move forward, I would like to ask you to remember the stories of Ivy and Grace. Let us honor their courage and bring change that gives them hope.

Senator DAINES. Thanks for your testimony, Ms. Li.

Mr. Mosher?

[The prepared statement of Ms. Li appears in the appendix.]

**STATEMENT OF STEVEN W. MOSHER, PRESIDENT,  
POPULATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

Mr. MOSHER. I would like to start by thanking the members of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China for holding this important hearing and particularly for you, Senator Daines, for chairing it at this point.

This is a hearing that is near and dear to my heart, as it was to Jennifer's and in a sense, in almost the same way. I was at Stanford University in 1979 when China first allowed foreign researchers to come into that country, and I was the first American social scientist to live on the ground in China for a year and study rural life in China in 1979 and 1980 when the one-child policy began.

And it swept across the Chinese landscape like a terrible hurricane, sweeping up pregnant women, women who were three and six and nine months pregnant, telling them that their pregnancies were illegal—they had been legal, of course, a few weeks before, but the Party had now decreed otherwise—arresting them for the crime of being pregnant, taking them away from their homes and families, locking them up in holding pens where they were subjected to morning-to-night propaganda sessions—brainwashing sessions we should probably call them—until they were taken by force, by coercion, under escort to a local medical center where they were aborted. In some cases, the third trimester abortions were done by Caesarian section and babies were killed at birth.

I was there for this entire process, and as far as I know, I think I am one of the only, or one of the few Western eyewitnesses to the way the program is actually carried out in China, with the identification of pregnant women as criminals, with their arrest, with their imprisonment, and at the end of the day with their forced abortion and forced sterilization.

So I was there at the beginning, and I would like to say that I am also here at the close, at the end of this barbaric policy, but unfortunately, that would not be true.

It is true that the Chinese Communist Party has now decided that all Chinese couples will be allowed to have a second child—or will soon be allowed, once they jump through the proper legislative hoops at their rubber-stamp parliament—will soon be allowed to have a second child, rather than being restricted to only one child, as some are now.

But foreign observers who have greeted the apparent end of the one-child policy with euphoria should understand that this does not represent a new birth of reproductive freedom in China.

Those who have publicly commended the Chinese leadership as if they had completely decided to abolish a policy of limiting child-bearing in China that has cost so much physical, emotional, and spiritual damage to the families of the nation, have got it wrong, because the Chinese leadership has done no such thing.

China is not backing away from draconian birth limits, because Communist Party leader Xi Jinping has suddenly developed a conscience. There is no evidence that anyone in the senior leadership has ever lost any sleep over the hundreds of millions of unborn children and newborn children their policy has killed over the past 35 years, since I was first in China.

There is no evidence that any of them have shed a tear for the hundreds of millions of young mothers forcibly aborted and sterilized over this same period, or had a moment's regret for China's tens of millions of missing baby girls.

What does keep them up at night, and what has prompted this modification of the planned birth policy, is the dawning realization that their misguided policy is crippling China's economic growth.

For at least the past two years, China's workforce has actually been shrinking. That is a pretty amazing statistic in the most populous country in the world. Last year, the potential workforce fell by a reported 3.71 million, almost 4 million workers, a significant number even by China's standards.

At the same time, the over-60 population is exploding. According to U.N. projections, it is expected to more than double by 2050, reaching an astonishing 437 million people over the age of retirement.

China is growing old before it grows rich, and the strains on China's nascent pension programs will be enormous. And we could, Mr. Chairman, imagine a day when the Chinese Government also declares that the elderly are superfluous and need to be encouraged to prematurely end their lives. That, I think, would also fall under the aegis of the population control program.

There is another reason, even more fundamental, why I am not celebrating the end of the one-child policy. Regardless of whether Party leaders allow Chinese couples to have one, two or even three children, the underlying policy has not, and probably will not, change.

Now, Dr. Eberstadt, Reggie Littlejohn, Jennifer Li, and Sarah Huang have all made this point. But let me just underline the fact that the underlying policy is the policy of planned birth—in Chinese.

And under the policy of planned birth, the Chinese state, rather than the Chinese people, decide how many children ought to be born in China each year, and it was none other than Chairman Mao himself, the founder of the People's Republic of China, who first put the planned-birth policy in place.

The great helmsman, as he was known, decided way back in the 1950s that the five-year economic plans being drawn up by the Chinese Communist Party should control not just production, but reproduction, and they have, ever since.

That is why the shift to a two-child policy is occurring as part of the next five-year plan, approved at the latest meeting of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee. The official communique about that meeting, which was released by the Xinhua—the Xinhua News Agency, on October 29, made clear that in the 13th five-year economic plan, China's leaders had decided to ramp up both economic production and reproduction.

The communique itself is written in the almost-unreadable pastiche of slogans that the Party resorts to on such occasions, but I translate it as, “promote the balanced development of the population, resolutely carry out the basic policy of planned births, thoroughly implement the policy of each couple birthing two children, actively begin to address the aging of the population.”

So the basic policy of planned births has not changed. What has changed is the state's desire to increase reproduction, and it will, by one means or another, increase reproduction.

Of course, it is already too late to rebalance the population—or to stop the aging of the population. That is already baked into the demographic cake. And it is doubtful whether or not the new policy will have much of an impact immediately on childbearing, unless the state steps in with more—measures.

When the one-child policy has been relaxed for certain segments of the population in the past, first for rural couples whose first child was a girl, then for all rural couples, then for urban couples where both husband and wife were only children. The results have been underwhelming.

The last tweaking of the planned birth policy occurred just two years ago. It was particularly disappointing to Party leaders hoping for a baby boomlet. The government had announced that couples in which only one spouse was an only child would be allowed two children, and they planned for 20 million births in the year 2014.

Actually, only 16.9 million babies materialized. Babies do not materialize, of course; they are conceived, but in a material society like China, we can appropriately use that term. Out of the 11 million couples eligible to have a second child, only 1.45 million actually applied for a permit. So the response was something over 10 percent of the population.

These figures suggest that at least among China's urban population—of course, more and more people are pouring into urban centers where economic opportunities are available—couples are not eagerly waiting to fill the maternity wards.

I think 40 years of anti-natal, anti-child propaganda has left its mark on the Chinese psyche. The Chinese Communist Party, because of 35 years of anti-people propaganda, has succeeded in largely dismantling the most family-centered culture, one of the most family-centered cultures, the planet has ever seen.

Few of those people who grew up under the one-child policy, who are now the second generation of people to grow up under the one-child policy—their parents were only children and in many cases, their grandparents were only children—they would rather spend their limited incomes on themselves than, say, disposable diapers.

So what will the Chinese leaders do if, as now appears likely, the Chinese people do not procreate up to plan? At present, couples are permitted to have a second child, but I do not expect the matter to end there.

Soon they will be encouraged, then they will be motivated, and finally one can imagine that they might one day be ordered to bear children. I could at this point quote Dr. Eberstadt quoting me, but I will refrain from doing that. [Laughter.]

If this prediction sounds a little overwrought, consider what China has been doing to young pregnant mothers for the better part of two generations now. They have been visited by family planning officials, planned birth officials, who encourage them to get abortions, who then motivate them and, at the end of the day, ultimately take them under escort to have abortions.

You could see how young pregnant mothers who would be encouraged to bear children would be subject to periodic pelvic exami-

nations to make sure they have not secretly gotten an abortion, and punished if they refuse to bear the children the state wants them to bear.

At the outset of the one-child policy—in fact, when I was in China—then paramount leader Deng Xiaoping ordered his officials to, “use whatever means you must” to force the birthrate down. He went on to say, “with the support of the Chinese Communist Party, you have nothing to fear.”

Chinese officials took him at his word and women were rounded up en masse to be aborted, sterilized, and contracepted. Even today these abuses continue, and they will continue, because as far as I know, Central Committee Directive Number 7 of 1983 has not been rescinded.

It requires women who have had two children to be sterilized, as Reggie pointed out. It requires women pregnant with out-of-plan births to be aborted, which will be the fate of women who are pregnant with a third child. And it requires women who have not yet been given permission to have children to be contracepted.

That will stay in place. It will also continue to be the case that single women in China will not be allowed to have children, because all of their pregnancies are ipso facto out-of-plan births.

So the same Party officials who have been responsible for decades of forced abortions and sterilizations would have no qualms about enforcing mandatory pregnancy.

If the higher birth rate called for by China’s new planned birth policy cannot be achieved voluntarily, I think childbearing in China may one day become mandatory.

What should China do? Well, China’s leaders should, number one, abandon the planned birth policy altogether, the policy that has been in place since the 1950s. They should allow couples to freely choose the number and spacing of their children and have as many or as few as they desire.

Number two, China’s leaders should respect the consensus of the international community as expressed in the policy of the U.N. Population Fund. The U.N. Population Fund affirms that couples enjoy the right to reasonably decide the number and spacing of their children, something that China denies its own people.

Number three, the National Health and Planned Birth Commission, created in 2013 from the merger of the Ministry of Health and National Population and Planned Birth Commission should revert to its former role as the Ministry of Health, and its planned birth arm abolished.

Only if these reforms are undertaken will forced abortions and forced sterilizations, which have characterized China’s planned birth policy from the beginning, come to an end.

Now, is this likely to happen? Well, sadly, no. I think the totalitarian impulse that drives these policies is far too strong in China. From a more practical, political point of view, the planned birth policy employs far too many people. It generates far too much in the way of profits to corrupt officials through the fines for having illegal children. And it is too closely identified with the Chinese Communist Party to ever be lightly abandoned.

The Chinese Communist Party has invested a lot of its legitimacy in the claim that it and only it knows how to manage the



Chinese economy, and that reproduction is part of managing the Chinese economy. Were it to abandon the planned birth policy altogether, it would be admitting that its management has been a failure.

It has, of course, been a failure.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Mosher appears in the appendix.]

Senator DAINES. Thank you for your testimony.

I first want to submit for the record Senator Rubio's comments, who is the Cochair of this Commission. So ordered.

Let me start off, as someone who spent five-and-a-half years in China, living there back in the 1990s, I was in the private sector at the time, expatriate, working for a Fortune 20 company. And we were based in Guangzhou, but traveled extensively around the country. So I have certainly had a chance to witness both the positive as well as some of the concerning developments of the region.

I remember having a set of twin baby girls dropped off at our doorstep one morning when my wife called me at work, from a desperate mother in a rural area. And they turned to an American family for help. And I can tell you, through a long, arduous process, two little baby girls are now two thriving teenagers here, living in the United States, adopted by a family.

I remember working with one of my employees whose wife had become pregnant without permission, and dealing with the family planning police, but successfully resolving it to protect that little baby girl that they now have.

And Ms. Li, I do remember, too, the days of when we had two children when we moved over. Then we had two more born in Hong Kong, so we were a very lucky family, with four children. And the comments we too would have quietly with Chinese families who were yearning that they could have perhaps more than one child as well.

So this is more than just a hearing for me. This is also an experience that we had as a family and something I care very, very deeply about.

There was a quote in Ms. Huang's written testimony that said—she was quoting the famous William Wilberforce. And I quote her testimony as she quoted Wilberforce when he said, "You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again that you did not know."

Mr. Eberstadt, according to the Commission's annual report, the initial relaxation of the one-child policy that allowed couples to have two children, if one of the parents was an only child, only results in about a quarter of the estimated increase in births that was expected.

What reason, if any, is there to believe that a two-child policy will result in a different outcome and have a significant impact on the demographic crisis currently facing China?

Mr. EBERSTADT. Well, Senator, I think you have put your finger exactly on the question that Chinese authorities must be thinking about today. For us social scientists who are interested in looking at evidence and empirical results, rather than government ideology, I think we would have to say that the chances that this will

have a substantially different impact from the earlier tinkering, the slight recalibration, would be very, very small.

And the reason for this is that the best single predictor that we have as social scientists for fertility outcomes under voluntary family planning is the desires of parents. If we look all around the world, the best single indicator—better than income, better than education, better than urbanization or infant mortality or access to contraceptives—the best single indicator is desired family size.

And if this slight recalibration does absolutely nothing to change desired family size, as we would expect it would not, I think we would have to presume that the impact will be minimal.

As Steven Mosher has already mentioned, moreover, China's demographic trends for the next generation are basically already baked into the cake.

Thank you very much.

Senator DAINES. Why do you not think they would perhaps then rethink and abolish any restrictions on children at all, in terms of numbers?

Mr. EBERSTADT. You know, my demographer friends in China wonder about that also. And as I reflect upon it, my own hypothesis would be that the Chinese Government does not want to relinquish this instrument of social control, precisely because it is an instrument of social control.

It may not have the demographic power to effect the sorts of demographic impacts that population planners would like, but it is still a very powerful tool of social control nonetheless—along with other very powerful tools of social control that the government wishes to maintain.

Senator DAINES. Thank you.

Ms. Littlejohn, do you want to add to that? I have a question for you as well.

Ms. LITTLEJOHN. Yes, Senator. Your question: Why does China not completely abandon all coercive population control, given the fact that they have backed themselves into a horrific demographic disaster in terms of the gender imbalance and the old and young population imbalance.

That was actually the subject of my entire testimony on April 30, 2015. And the fact that it makes no demographic sense whatsoever for China to continue the one-child policy begs the question of, Why are they continuing it? The one-child policy started in the 1979–1980 timeframe. Chairman Mao had said people are the strength of China. And he was encouraging women to have more children.

The average fertility rate at that time was about six kids per woman and now, under the one-child policy, has gone down to maybe 1.3 to 1.6 kids per woman, depending on who you ask.

And that enormous population explosion under the Mao era is now heading toward retirement. I believe that in the beginning, when Deng Xiaoping instituted the one-child policy, that population control was the point of the policy, and the terror of forced abortion was a byproduct.

I believe now that the reason that it makes no sense to continue the one-child policy is that terror has now become the purpose of the policy. And the Chinese Communist Party is a brutal, totali-

tarian regime and they are using the one-child policy literally to terrorize people through forced abortion, which is a form of torture.

Senator DAINES. Let me ask a question about gendecide. Do you believe the two-child policy will reduce gendecide?

Ms. LITTLEJOHN. No, and the reason I believe that is because of the sterilization problem. So right now, in our area of the countryside and also, as Steve Mosher has mentioned, if a person has had a second child, they will be sterilized.

So if a woman has had a son, then she may very well opt not to have that second child, because she doesn't want to become sterilized, which will disable her. And then—so that girl will not be born. That family has a boy and then the second child will not be born.

Then in terms of people who have a girl first, right now in the countryside there is a two-child policy for people whose first child is a girl, they can have a second child. But people generally regard that as being their last chance to have a boy, and they selectively abort and selectively abandon those second daughters, and that will still happen under a two-child policy.

So I really do not expect the numbers to change much, if at all, of gendecide under the two-child policy.

Senator DAINES. Thank you.

My House colleagues have now returned from the battle on the floor, and so thank you for the opportunity to chair temporarily here. I will turn it back to Chairman Smith.

Chairman SMITH. Thank you so much, Senator Daines, and thank you for your insights and your leadership on these issues.

Senator DAINES. Thank you. I appreciate it.

Chairman SMITH. I would like to yield to Commissioner Pittenger.

Representative PITTENGER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank each of you again for your testimony today. And how heart-rending is it to us to see your real commitment in these life-saving measures.

Ms. Li, I would just like to ask you, without suffering through details, describe to me the experience of a pregnant woman coming to you seeking help, and the pressures that she is receiving from family and from the government. And how do you deal with these requests? And just to give us a more personal view of this?

Ms. LI. Okay, that is an excellent question. The China Life Alliance is, as I mentioned before, almost all Chinese citizens. So typically, I will not interact with a desperate mother in the first stage of our contact.

Usually she will speak to someone like I mentioned, Ivy or possibly one of the other women that works with us. And they will usually establish a meeting right off the bat, and it is actually very complex. Because this issue is so fraught with political danger, we use technology to avoid being tracked. Most of the workers use multiple telephones and multiple ways of communicating, and that is how they set up their initial contact with desperate parents.

Would you like more?

Representative PITTENGER. Well, it is just the pressures that she is under, and just—

Ms. LI. A lot of the pressure, actually when someone is being pressured to undergo a forced abortion, it is actually oftentimes the pressure from family or from their employer that will prove to be too much for a person.

A lot of women, they may be told that they need to have an abortion, but they will not go through with it until their employer begins to threaten them. Oftentimes a male employer will tell them, unless you show me the scans, unless you show me proof of your IUD, these different kinds of things, I will fire you.

And oftentimes, their home loans or their rental contracts are connected with their job, and what a lot of these women we deal with face is losing not just their job, but their home. Oftentimes their car, many different aspects of their life are challenged.

Representative PITTENGER. Thank you.

Ms. Huang? I guess she can hear me—

What about women like yourself who are pregnant with a second child before this policy has been fully implemented. Is there any sense the government is being more lenient with you and with other women during this transition phase?

[Pause for translation.]

Could you speak louder, please?

Ms. HUANG. I believe so.

Representative PITTENGER. Okay. Mr. Mosher, despite the looming demographic crisis and calls from demographic experts to scrap the one-child policy, the Chinese Government has instead chosen to make incremental changes over the years.

What do you think the rationale is and how do you abolish this entirely? Perhaps you spoke to this some, but I was not in the room.

Mr. MOSHER. Well, the underlying rationale is that the Party has the right under a decision made by Chairman Mao Zedong back in the early 1950s when this was under debate in the top reaches of the Chinese Communist Party.

The Party has the right and the authority to control reproduction under a state plan in the same way that it controls production. So that in the same way the five-year plan, which is passed, in general terms, by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, and then operationalized and concretized at various levels of the government by the different ministries.

In the same way, that plan will detail how many tons of steel or how many kilowatts of energy that are to be produced in China. It will also specify how many children are to be reproduced in China. This has been part and parcel of economic planning in China since almost the very beginning.

So for the Chinese Communist Party to abandon this now would be, first and foremost, an admission that perhaps to the Chinese people it had no right in the first place to seize authority over this area.

Second, it would be a tacit admission that it had gotten it wrong in imposing a one-child policy, which is now playing out to the detriment of economic advances in China and, of course, has resulted in the destruction of the family.

And since the Chinese Communist Party's legitimacy is very closely tied up to its most important policies, of which planned

birth is one, it will not lightly abandon this policy, because it might very well call its legitimacy into question, in the eyes of the Chinese people.

So I do not see them relinquishing control over reproduction—I do not see that as very likely at all. It would take a fundamental transformation, I think, of the political system in China.

Representative PITTENGER. Is there anything we can do in U.S. policy to encourage this transition of this course of policy? And what do you encourage Chinese families to do to value their own—the Chinese people to value baby girls as much.

Mr. MOSHER. Well, I have traveled in China extensively. I have visited villages where there are many, many large families, families where there are equal numbers of little boys and little girls. Those villages are Christian villages or Catholic villages where there has been missionary effort made in China since the Ming Dynasty hundreds of years ago, and where they, in solidarity, protect their women from the extortions and from the coercion of the planned birth police. In most of China, of course, that kind of situation is not to be found.

We can certainly encourage the Chinese Government to respect human rights, to respect international norms when it comes to the basic right of families to decide for themselves the number and spacing of their children.

And we have been—well, I have been involved in this fight for 35 years, since I was present when the one-child policy began in China. I take any relaxation of the policy as a step in the right direction, but the underlying problem, the problem that will not easily go away, is the problem of the planned birth policy itself, that the state has decreed that it, not Chinese couples, not Chinese individuals, have the right to determine how many children will be born in the country.

Representative PITTENGER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

Chairman SMITH. Thank you.

Mr. Pitts?

Representative PITTS. I am just here to listen. Thank you.

Chairman SMITH. Thank you.

I will just—I know many of the questions have been already asked, but just a couple of questions that I would like to point out.

To Sarah, if I could ask you and maybe others might want to respond to it, you have said that a Chinese mother's womb is one of the most dangerous places to be, and most do not get out alive.

You point out that when you add up the numbers, the number of murdered children, including and especially murdered girl children, is more than both World Wars combined, which is astonishing—if a foreign power were to impose upon the Chinese population this kind of brutality and carnage, you can be sure that the Chinese Government would respond and defend its people.

And yet in this case it is the perpetrator of those crimes against humanity. It is bizarre, and it certainly is a gross violation of human rights, to say the least.

You also point out—and some of you have mentioned—the “black clinics” where ultrasounds are used. Do you sense any sense on the part of the Chinese Government to rein in the use of ultrasound

imaging to determine the gender of the child, which is really a search-and-destroy mission, as we know?

Have there been prosecutions? Having been at this not as long as Steven Mosher, although he inspired all of our work on this from the very beginning, there is always the apologists who say things have changed.

I will never forget a hearing that friends on the other side of the aisle held in the Foreign Affairs Committee in 1985. And I was, like, the lone voice objecting that there was a great deal of hyperbole, that it was all over. The high tides were over; 1983 was a big and bad year and China had learned its lessons, and we had even a Foreign Service officer who said he traveled the length and breadth of China—figuratively, not literally—and he was reporting that all is well. And I find that astonishing, that time and time again people are ready to put a gloss on this and say things are fine.

But specifically, prosecutions against these “black clinics”; does China yet get it, that they have become the magnet for sex trafficking because of the dearth of women, brought about in part because of the forced abortion policy and the one-child overlay of all of that? If any of you want to respond to that, I would appreciate it.

Yes, Ms. Li.

Ms. Li. So I have personally been to those “black clinics” multiple times. I have gone with my husband and I have gone with Chinese friends, and I have asked questions. I have told them I was pregnant, asked how much it would cost to get an abortion.

Also, our Chinese friends do that, whether we are with them or not, and there is no fear on the part of any operator in a “black abortion clinic” that we have been to.

They actually brag about their relationships with the government, with police officers. They tell us how many abortions they have performed for members of the government Party. Yeah, no fear at all. I have never heard of one being prosecuted in any way.

Chairman SMITH. On the issue of women’s emotional health, I think one of the greatest overlooked areas here—not by you, but by the international community—is the post-traumatic stress, the horrific consequences of the one-child-per-couple policy on women’s psychological health.

On one of my many trips to China, I remember meeting with state family planning officials, and the New York Times had just recently done a page-one story about a woman who was clinically depressed because of the forced abortions she had been compelled to undergo.

And when I brought that—and I had the newspaper with me intact, the whole paper—I said, how do you respond to that? And they said, it is a big lie. The New York Times is making it all up. There is no consequences to this.

When a member of the People’s Congress was here leading a delegation, Madame Fu, I asked her about the 600 women purportedly who commit suicide every day, and a number of those, probably a large number, are attributable to the population control program, and raised all this with her.

She says it was a lie. This was over at the Foreign Affairs Committee where we had this exchange. Said I was making up the statistics. So I said, "Well, they are your statistics from the Beijing Centers for Disease Control, which seeks to parallel, I think, a lot of what our CDC does." And she abruptly ended the meeting, after she got the documentation, which was first contained in the country reports of human rights practices, the China Report put out by U.S. Department of State.

I think this unrecognized psychological impact needs to be highlighted. Any of you would want to speak to what this is doing to the Chinese women in particular?

Yes, Dr. Mosher.

Mr. MOSHER. When the policy began in—shortly after the policy began in 1980, there were suicides in the part of China where I lived, suicides committed by young women who had been forced to have an abortion. So it was clear to me from the outset that there was a direct correlation, a one-to-one relationship, between the forced abortion of young mothers who had conceived their children in love and intact marriages and were looking forward to their birth in a few weeks or months, and their sudden—their inability to protect the child they were carrying.

And you think, it is not their fault. They were taken under duress. They were coerced into the forced abortion. But a mother—and the mothers here will acknowledge this is true—the mothers blame themselves anyway for their failure to protect their unborn children.

One of the striking things about the suicide statistics out of China, you have already mentioned them in part, is that in every other country of the world, more men than women commit suicide. In every other country of the world, it is the elderly, middle aged and elderly, who predominantly end their lives.

In China, it is precisely the opposite. It is young women, and it is young women because that is the precise demographic that is being targeted for forced abortion and forced sterilization.

And the forced sterilization, I would add, just adds another layer of guilt and anger to the whole process, because what it does is it prevents a women ever from having a make-up child, a child to make up for the child that she lost.

Chairman SMITH. Yes, Dr. Eberstadt?

Mr. EBERSTADT. Chairman Smith, if it is all right, I would like to return for a moment to the question of sex-selective abortion. I was just reflecting on your question there.

I think we have to say that there are two and only two sure ways of eliminating sex-selective abortion anywhere. One way is to eliminate the availability of prenatal gender determination technology; the other way is to eliminate the availability of abortion.

INTERPRETER. Ms. Huang would like to respond to the question regarding the "black clinic."

Ms. HUANG. Last year, I took an American reporter into one of these clinics, who became sick to her stomach as she witnessed a floor, stained with blood and a back room where forced abortions were performed.

Unfortunately, these clinics are very busy and exist in almost every city in China. They are not hard to find.

I recently began working with China Life Alliance to map all of these clinics so abortion rescue teams could attempt rescues. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the project because there were way too many to count.

Chairman SMITH. Thank you very much. And let me just ask anyone who would like to take it—maybe, Dr. Eberstadt, you might want to take the first shot at it—and that is the numbers.

I mean, there was a human rights report, State Department report, that suggests that there were 100 million missing girls, and that was 15 years ago. Obviously, it is a closed society and even demographers probably operate with a certain amount of restraint because of government pleasure or displeasure.

And Mara Hvistendahl who has testified before our Committee, has pointed out that in Asia, there is 160-plus million missing females, and that includes India, of course, and some other countries where there is a tremendous amount of gendercide occurring, sex-selection abortion in particular, to lead to that gendercide.

But we never really can get a handle on how many missing girls are there really, and it really becomes—it is important because we want to be accurate. But it is a closed society and they guard statistics very—we know that even with economic data that you can be tried and prosecuted and jailed if you put out information that is contrary to the government line.

So I am just wondering if there is any estimate that is based on the best available science that you can convey to the Commission.

Mr. EBERSTADT. Chairman Smith, I can tell you a little bit about my own homework. There are other people who have done their homework and come up with somewhat different numbers.

Nobody, I think, would say that the number of missing girls in the era of the one-child policy in China would be less than tens and tens of millions.

The exact number is somewhat difficult to calculate, precisely because of the incentives for hiding children in China. If one looks at successive population censuses in the People's Republic of China, you see something that you do not find regularly elsewhere in the world: With each successive population count, more people show up. More children, or adolescents, seem to get counted for any given birth year, and that is not because there is a lot of in-migration from abroad; it is not because people are coming back to life.

Ordinarily, you would expect fewer from one census to the next, with very little migration or even out-migration.

So the incentives today certainly are for hiding girls—also hiding boys—and that makes it a little bit difficult to tell just what the numbers are.

The United Nations Population Division, which I think has got very good researchers working there, the U.S. Census Bureau, likewise, excellent researchers working there, come up with slightly different estimates of how many should be counted. But that is based upon a certain inference they have to make, since under-counting is accepted as being the reality today.

Chairman SMITH. Is there a number that you would—

Mr. EBERSTADT. I would have to go back and take a look at the data and some of my own work, and I will be very happy to send that along. It would be tens and tens of millions.



Chairman SMITH. And we will make that part of the record. Thank you.

Let me—what do you think our next steps ought to be? I am today sending another letter to the President asking him to enforce the visa ban. I have been involved with several visa ban pieces of legislation.

I wrote the Belarus Democracy Act, which has been well implemented by both the Bush and now the Obama administrations, that focuses on the dictatorship of Lukashenko in Belarus.

The Magnitsky Act has had a mixed implementation. That was a totally bipartisan effort that obviously focuses on Russia, and I am the prime sponsor of the Global Magnitsky Act, which is pending, has not passed yet.

But this legislation goes—the Admiral Nance-Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Act of 2000 and specifically a provision of that which I put in makes clear that anyone who is complicit in forced abortion or forced sterilization is inadmissible to the United States.

And yet we asked the Congressional Research Service to look at this, and less than 30 people—and I would fault the Bush administration on this as well—they did not aggressively at all implement it, even though they were asked to.

But the Obama administration has turned a blind eye. I have asked at hearings, what are you doing? Who knows if we will ever get an answer back to this? What would be your recommendation?

You say we have got a policy that is law that can hold people to account for—to the extent that we can do it, at least deny them access to the United States, and we have not done it.

What would be your thoughts on, or your message to the administration on that or anything else it ought to be doing right now, if they really care about the women who have been victimized, the families, the men—because they are victimized as well, but mostly the women, obviously, who bear the scars disproportionately to everyone else, and then all the dead babies?

Steven Mosher.

Mr. MOSHER. If I would—add on to that, Mr. Chairman, I would point to the very effective move to identify a half a dozen military officers who were involved through military-related enterprises in China and cyberattacks on the United States. And the level of cyberattacks is apparently receding now, in part I think in response to that.

I do not think we would have to identify all 1 million of the population control police in China. I think if we identified a half a dozen senior officials who were involved in implementing the policy, that would send a very strong message and would get a reaction immediately in terms of decreasing the level of coercion in China.

If they were—if Chinese officials are aware that they would not be welcome in the United States, that they would not be able to invest in the United States or visit their children who are studying here at American universities or who are looking over their American investments in real estate, as easily, that would set them back on their heels.

Chairman SMITH. Excellent idea.

Yes, Ms. Littlejohn?

Ms. LITTLEJOHN. Chairman Smith, I know that you have been leading the fight to defund the UNFPA on the basis of the Kemp-Kasten violation, involvement with coercive population control, the emphasis being the forced abortion aspect of this.

But in part of the testimony that I was giving while you were out of the room, I wanted to convey to you that in our villages, something that is really impacting gendercide is the forced sterilization aspect of this.

And the thing about the sterilization is everyone agrees that forced sterilization is a crime against humanity. People have various issues about abortion; they might not want to touch that topic, even if it is forced abortion. Forced sterilization everybody agrees on, and it is the forced sterilization that really hampers women having girls.

Because if a woman has a boy first in the village, she is going to stop having kids. She does not want to have that second child, because she has to be sterilized after the second child. So then the chance for the girl to be born or that second child does not happen, because of the sterilization.

And then at the same time, in the countryside where even now, if your first child is a girl, you can have a second child. Because of the forced sterilization, women are aborting those second daughters because they want to save that second-child place for a boy.

And so it is the sterilization after the second child that is, I think, a huge part of keeping gendercide in place.

Chairman SMITH. Excellent point.

For the record, the Kemp-Kasten language says that we will not support any organization that supports or co-manages a coercive population control program. So it is indeed inclusive of involuntary sterilization.

But I think your point as to how this is leading to gendercide needs to be emphasized, and I think that was an excellent point. Thank you.

Anything else you would like to add before we conclude?

[No response.]

I want to thank you so much for your testimonies. Again, both other House commissioners and I deeply regret we missed some of it because of the voting that occurred on the floor, seven votes. But I have read your testimonies and they were excellent, very insightful, full of information.

And I think, Dr. Mosher, your suggestion that we compile a list of people—and any help any of you could provide to us or to the Commission—because we will convey that list to the administration and also do our own due diligence to try to put a list together. I think it is a great idea.

You do not have to get all 1 million family planning cadres or whatever that number is these days. Focus on the leadership. And so thank you for that idea.

With that, I guess there are no other comments, so the hearing is adjourned. And thank you very much.

PANELISTS. Thank you.

[Whereupon the hearing was concluded at 12:11 p.m.]

## **A P P E N D I X**

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## PREPARED STATEMENTS

PREPARED STATEMENT OF NICHOLAS EBERSTADT, PH.D.

DECEMBER 3, 2015

Members of Congress, Distinguished Co-Panelists, Esteemed Guests:

On October 29 of this year, a shift from a One Child to a Two Child norm was announced by the Central Committee of Chinese Communist Party at the Fifth Plenum of the 18th Party Congress.<sup>1</sup> In other words, the Party signaled that it would be abandoning the One-Child Policy it had promulgated in the very early 1980s, and would now be moving to allow all parents in China to have two children.

To be clear: that shift has not yet taken place. To the contrary: just days after the October 29 announcement, China's National Health and Family Planning Commission, which oversees the population program, emphasized that the new norms were not yet "valid,"<sup>2</sup> and described the Two-Child Policy as a "proposal,"<sup>3</sup> indicating furthermore that this proposal would have to be approved by Beijing's legislature next year before it might eventually be enacted.

Suffice it thus to say that all the particulars of this new Two-Child Policy still remain to be seen. It is not too soon, however, to make a few basic points.

**First:** The end of the One-Child Policy will *not* mean the end of coercive birth control in China. This critical fact must be underscored. The Chinese government is *not* retiring its enormous apparatus of involuntary population plan enforcement. Beijing is *not* relinquishing its claim that the state, rather than parents, is the proper authority for deciding how many children China's families may have. Instead, the Chinese Communist Party is merely preparing to recalibrate the limit that it will impose on its subjects. By all indications, the sorts of ugly human rights violations that other witnesses will be describing here this morning—up to and including criminalizing out-of-quota pregnancies and forcibly compelling abortions against the will of the mother—will still be very much part and parcel of China's population policy agenda.

**Second:** Any Two-Child Norm would necessarily and inescapably still expose parents who desire more than two children to coercive birth control. While we cannot calculate the size of this group of parents with any great precision, it would appear that this group could include millions upon millions of would-be parents in contemporary China. That group would also disproportionately include China's ethnic minorities, including those of Muslim cultural background. Last month *The Economist* detailed the intensification over the past year of an anti-birth drive against the Uighur population in China's northwestern province of Xinjiang.<sup>4</sup> For China's population planners, there is no contradiction between raising the permissible birth quota and deploying the power of the state against birth quota "violators."

**Third:** In addition to its obvious demographic focus, China's population program should be understood to serve more broadly as an instrument of population control, in the more general sense of social control. And it is not a "stand alone" policy in this regard. We must also bear in mind contemporary China's *hukou* system of household registration and residence permits—a system the likes of which is only otherwise seen today in North Korea.

In principle every Chinese citizen today must have government authorization to move outside his or her officially designated *hukou* locality, for example in search of work. Persons living and working outside their official *hukou* are in effect illegal aliens within their own land, and may in theory be rounded up and deported back to their place of origin at any time. (And this is not just a theoretical possibility—tens of millions of idled migrant workers were sent back to their homes during the global crash of 2008 to forestall any possibility of unrest in the urban areas to which they had moved.) At this writing, a distinct majority of the young men and women in China's big cities are *de facto* illegal residents, violating established *hukou* rules. [SEE FIGURE 1] Absent far-reaching *hukou* reform, an ever greater share of Chi-

<sup>1</sup>"China to allow two children for all couples." *Xinhua*, October 29, 2015, [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-10/29/c\\_134763645.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-10/29/c_134763645.htm).

<sup>2</sup>"China denies immediate validity of two-child policy," *Xinhua*, November 2, 2015, [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-11/02/c\\_134774830.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-11/02/c_134774830.htm).

<sup>3</sup>"China stresses two-child policy not yet valid," *Xinhua*, November 10, 2015, [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-11/10/c\\_134802823.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-11/10/c_134802823.htm).

<sup>4</sup>*The Economist*, "Family planning in Xinjiang: Remote control," November 7, 2015, <http://www.economist.com/news/china/21678007-government-xinjiang-trying-limit-muslim-births-remote-control>

na's urban population is on track to be comprised of *hukou* violators, given the outlook for urbanization. One might think the obvious solution here should be to relax these *hukou* restrictions—or to scrap them altogether. Despite considerable talk about *hukou* reform over the past two decades, Chinese authorities have shown extreme reluctance to do away with *hukou* system in practice.

Though more intrusive and arguably abusive than pre-Communist instruments of social control, these instruments do have antecedents in Chinese dynastic history. Indeed, in his classic study of the vast and oppressive bureaucratic edifice for maintaining social control over rural China under the Qing dynasty, Kung-chuan Hsiao describes a number of techniques (such as the *baojia* neighborhood surveillance system) that would have an eerily familiar ring in China today. Over the course of two thousand years, observed Hsiao, China's rulers strove to develop and perfect "an administrative apparatus which helped emperors to assure obedience and forestall rebellions."<sup>5</sup> Given both the nature of current Chinese rule and the tradition that predates it, we should not be surprised if authorities in Beijing prove themselves surprisingly attached to coercive population policy precisely because of the social control it affords the rulers over the ruled.

**Fourth:** It is worth noting that some Chinese researchers and academics are already calling for more aggressive measures to stimulate population growth, and the Chinese government is at the very least granting such voices a hearing in the state controlled media. Days before the announcement of the new Two-Child Policy, for example, the official *China Daily* carried a story titled "Need seen as 'urgent' for boosting population," in which a Peking University professor is quoted as proclaiming "two children are good, and three are even better."<sup>6</sup>

Is it possible that Beijing might reverse course in the future, and veer from an anti-natal policy to pro-natalism? If so, China would hardly be the first postwar Asian government to conduct such an about-face. Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of China (Taiwan), and Singapore have all done exactly that already. The distinction here, of course, is that none of these other governments ever attempted to enforce *involuntary* birth control. A coercive population policy forcing Chinese parents to have unwanted births is certainly hard to imagine nowadays—but that does not necessarily mean that such a program should be dismissed out of hand as an absolute impossibility. As population and human rights activist Steven Mosher warned shortly after the announcement of the new Two-Child Policy, "The same party officials who have been responsible for decades of forced abortions and sterilizations would presumably have no qualms over enforcing mandatory pregnancy on young women, if they were ordered to do so."<sup>7</sup>

**Finally:** Among the many unanswered questions concerning coercive birth control in China, the most important—and perhaps also surprising—is its ultimate demographic impact. Strange as this may sound, demographers and population specialists have yet to offer a plausible and methodologically defensible estimate of just how much this extraordinarily ambitious and ruthless adventure in social engineering has actually altered the size and composition of China's population.

The problem is that we lack any clear idea of what China's population trends over the past three and a half decades would have looked like in the absence of coercion. Over the decade before the One-Child Policy, China's birth rates were plummeting. [SEE FIGURE 2] At the advent of the One-Child Policy era, demographers now estimate that fertility levels in the Chinese countryside were well under half their level just ten years earlier, and that fertility was far below replacement in China's cities. Indeed, during the 1960s and 1970s, birth levels in urban China were already apparently considerably lower than in Hong Kong or Taiwan. [SEE FIGURE 3]

Chinese population control authorities like to claim their efforts have averted a cumulative total of over 400 million births.<sup>8</sup> They apparently arrive at that figure by tallying up abortion totals during the One-Child Policy era. But if so this would be a fundamentally flawed approach to measuring the demographic impact of coercive birth control policy. It fails to distinguish between voluntary and involuntary abortions, while also ignoring the scope and scale of pregnancies averted altogether in the first place under the glare of anti-natal pressure. As an approximation of demographic impact, this figure cannot be taken seriously—although admittedly it

<sup>5</sup> Kung-chuan Hsiao, *Rural China: Imperial Control in the Nineteenth Century*, (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1960), p. 3.

<sup>6</sup> Shan Juan, "Need seen as 'urgent' for boosting population," *China Daily*, October 17, 2015, [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-10/17/content\\_22206185.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-10/17/content_22206185.htm)

<sup>7</sup> Steven Mosher, "A new dawn of reproductive freedom in China? Hardly," *The Federalist*, November 6, 2015, <http://thefederalist.com/2015/11/06/a-new-dawn-of-reproductive-freedom-in-china-hardly/>

<sup>8</sup> *People's Daily*, "400 million births prevented by one-child policy," October 28, 2011, <http://en.people.cn/90882/7629166.html>

would be highly meaningful to know just how many involuntary abortions Chinese authorities believe they are responsible for.

Perhaps the closest approximation to the true demographic impact of the One-Child Policy we could hope for might come from tracking the gap between wanted family size and actual family size over time and by region or locality for China—if such data were available. Over twenty years ago, a path-breaking study by Lant Pritchett and Larry Summers demonstrated that desired family size was the single best predictor of achieved family size the world over, irrespective of a country's culture or income level.<sup>9</sup> (That same study made a powerful case that *voluntary* family planning programs typically had very little impact on overall national fertility levels.)

Around the world today, differences in wanted fertility can apparently account for over 90 percent of intercountry differences in actual fertility. [SEE FIGURE 4] This is an extremely high correlation—but it is not perfect. In other words: even if we possessed detailed time-series data on desired family size for China in the One-Child Policy era, we could not be sure that any differences between real existing fertility levels and reported wanted fertility were completely due to coercive pressures. Moreover: it is by no means obvious that ordinary social science survey techniques are capable of eliciting reliable responses about desired fertility in a setting where answers to these questions are as fraught and politicized as they obviously are in China today. It is telling that Beijing's serious over-estimate of the expected demographic impact of its 2013 relaxation in the One Child Policy was reportedly due in part to survey research in which respondents indicated they would be inclined to have an additional child if they had the opportunity; in retrospect it looks as if the interviewed couples may just have been trying to provide their official questioners with the answers they thought their interrogators wanted to hear.

The devilish difficulty of ascertaining the demographic dimensions of the bite from China's police state population control policy has most recently been underscored by an important study by Dr. Daniel M. Goodkind, who has carefully re-examined the relationship between China's population program and the country's rising gender imbalance at birth.<sup>10</sup> Many observers (including me) take it as a given that the One-Child Policy has been the cause and the driver of rising sex ratios at birth in China over the past three and a half decades, but Goodkind challenges us to take a second look. Among his many other points, sex ratios at birth are currently at least as high as China's in a number of former Soviet states that have never been subjected to coercive population programs.

One curious aspect of Chinese census-taking in the One-Child Policy era is that more boys and girls seem to be enumerated for any given birth year in every successive national population count—despite the fact that China is a slight net out-migration country, and despite the predictable toll that mortality must exert. All other things being equal, we should expect the counted totals for males and females to decline, not rise, from one census to the next. Steady increases in enumeration for given birth years since 1980 are not characteristic, we should note, of either India or Indonesia—two other huge Asian populations with slight net out-migration.<sup>11</sup> [SEE FIGURES 5 TO 7]

How then to explain the steadily rising count for children born in the One-Child Policy era? China's levels of illiteracy are not higher than Indonesia's or India's—nor would we ordinarily think of the Chinese government's reach as distinctly more limited. Some other explanation must account for this.

It is tempting to take these rising population counts for given birth years in contemporary China as a reflection of a widespread tendency for parents to “hide” their children from authorities at a time when penalties for violating birth quotas could be severe. And this may be part of the dynamic revealed in Figure 5—but no more than part of it. For enumeration by birth year seems to keep on rising for this generation of Chinese on into their teens, and then into their twenties. It is difficult to envision plausible storylines for how a forcible birth control policy could incentivize people to avoid enumeration at those stages in the life cycle.

Forcible birth control looks to be the Chinese government's preferred policy path for the indefinite future. What is incontestable is that this path guarantees system-

<sup>9</sup>Lant Pritchett, “Desired Fertility and the impact of population policies,” *Population and Development Review* 20, No. 1 (Population Council, 1994): pp. 1–55. Summers withdrew his name from the study because he had assumed a prominent position in the Clinton Administration by the time it was ready to appear in print.

<sup>10</sup>Daniel Goodkind, “The claim that China's fertility restrictions contributed to the use of prenatal sex selection: A skeptical reappraisal,” *Population Studies* 69, 3 (Routledge, 2015): pp. 263–279.

<sup>11</sup>I would like to thank Mr. Alex Coblin of American Enterprise Institute and Ms. Katherine Cole of Dartmouth for their research assistance in preparing these figures.

atic human rights abuse. Much less well understood is what impact forcible population control stands to exert on the demographic rhythms of Chinese society. Demographic specialists need to pay much more attention to this question than they have to date.

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PREPARED STATEMENT OF REGGIE LITTLEJOHN

DECEMBER 3, 2015

Honorable members of the Commission, Representative Chris Smith, Senator Marco Rubio, distinguished fellow panelists, ladies and gentlemen, I am grateful for this opportunity to testify here today, as we discuss the fact that China's new Two-Child Policy continues the same massive crimes against women and children that were committed under the One Child Policy.

Xinhua News Agency reported on October 29, 2015 that China will move to a two-child policy for all couples, "abandoning its decades-long one-child policy."

Characterizing this latest modification as "abandoning" the One-Child Policy is misleading. A two-child policy will not end any of the human rights abuses caused by the One Child Policy, including forced abortion, involuntary sterilization or the sex-selective abortion of baby girls.

Coercion is the core of the policy. Instituting a two-child policy will not end forced abortion or forced sterilization. As blind activist Chen Guangcheng succinctly tweeted:

This is nothing to be happy about. First the #CCP would kill any baby after one. Now they will kill any baby after two. #ChinaOneChildPolicy

The reason given for this adjustment is entirely demographic: "to balance population development and address the challenge of an ageing population." The adjustment is a tacit admission that continuation of the one-child policy will lead to economic and demographic disaster. The policy was originally instituted for economic reasons. It is ironic that through this very policy, China has written its own economic death sentence.

Noticeably absent from the Chinese Communist party's announcement is any mention of human rights. The Chinese Communist Party has not suddenly developed a conscience or grown a heart. Even though it will now allow all couples to have a second child, China has not promised to end forced abortion, forced sterilization, or forced contraception.<sup>1</sup>

Indeed, the CCP has gone out of its way to emphasize that family planning restrictions will remain in force. Shortly after the announcement of the two-child policy, Vice-Minister of the National Health and Family Planning Commission Wang Peian said that "China would not abandon its family planning restrictions." He said, "A large population is China's basic national condition so we must adhere to the basic state policy of family planning."<sup>2</sup> He also said that "China needs to . . . promote birth monitoring" before the two-child policy comes into effect.<sup>3</sup>

It appears, therefore, that China plans to maintain its iron grip over the wombs of women. The Chinese Communist Party will continue to intrude into the bedrooms and between the sheets of the families in China, requiring an arduous process to

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<sup>1</sup>"Why Critics Are Not Satisfied with the End of China's One-Child Policy." <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2015/10/29/why-critics-are-not-satisfied-with-the-end-of-chinas-one-child-policy/> 10/29/15; "Still No Dignity for Chinese Women." <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/11/opinion/china-one-child-policy-still-no-dignity-for-chinese-women.html> 11/11/15; "Change from One- to Two-Child Policy Won't End Forced Abortions in China." <http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/penny-starr/human-rights-advocate-change-one-two-child-policy-wont-end-forced-abortions> 10/29/15; "Horrors of One-Child Policy Leave Deep Scars in Chinese Society." [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/horrors-of-one-child-policy-leave-deep-scars-in-chinese-society/2015/10/30/6bd28e0c-7e7b-11e5-bfb6-65300a5ff562\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/horrors-of-one-child-policy-leave-deep-scars-in-chinese-society/2015/10/30/6bd28e0c-7e7b-11e5-bfb6-65300a5ff562_story.html) 10/30/15

<sup>2</sup>"2-Child Policy 'to fuel growth by 0.5%.'" [http://www.chinadailyasia.com/nation/2015-11/10/content\\_15342620.html](http://www.chinadailyasia.com/nation/2015-11/10/content_15342620.html) 11/1/15; "China Amps Up PR Campaign Extolling 'Two-Child Policy.'" <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/11/10/china-amps-pr-campaign-extolling-two-child-policy/> 11/10/15

<sup>3</sup>"China Stresses Two-Child Policy Not Yet Valid." [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-11/10/c\\_134802823.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-11/10/c_134802823.htm) 11/10/15; "No Help for Chinese Mom Expecting Second Child: New Two-Child Policy Won't Be Enacted in Time to Save Pro-Life Leader Facing Pressure to Abort." [http://www.worldmag.com/2015/10/no\\_relief\\_for\\_chinese\\_mom\\_expecting\\_second\\_child/10/30/15](http://www.worldmag.com/2015/10/no_relief_for_chinese_mom_expecting_second_child/10/30/15)

obtain a “birth permit,” a system of paid informants, and ultrasound checks to make sure that a woman’s IUD is still in place.<sup>4</sup>

Coercion is the core of the policy. Instituting a two-child policy will not end forced abortion or forced sterilization.

The problem with the one-child policy is not the number of children “allowed.” Rather, it is the fact that the CCP is telling women how many children they can have and then enforcing that limit through forced abortion and forced sterilization. There is no guarantee that the CCP will cease their appalling methods of enforcement. Women will still have to obtain a government-issued birth permit, for the first and second child, or they may be subject to forced abortion. It will still be illegal for an unmarried woman to have a child. Regardless of the number of children allowed, women who get pregnant without permission will still be dragged out of their homes, strapped down to tables, and forced to abort babies that they want.

### **The Impact of China’s Two-Child Policy on Women in One Area of Rural China<sup>5</sup>**

Women’s Rights Without Frontiers runs a campaign to end the sex-selective abortion of baby girls in China. Our network of fieldworkers on the ground have saved almost 200 baby girls in one area of rural China. Through this network, WRWF gets direct, up to the minute information about coercive population control in our area of China.

I communicated with the head of our network over the weekend. Here is what she said about the current condition in our villages after the announcement of the Two-Child Policy:

#### **Forced Sterilization continues.**

The women in our villages do not see the new Two-Child Policy as a big improvement, because of the threat of sterilization. It is a policy that women must be sterilized after the second child—especially if both children are girls. Women who have a boy as their first child are not likely to have a second child, because after the second child, they would be forcibly sterilized. These sterilizations ruin not only a woman’s reproductive health, but her general health as well. After these sterilizations, the vast majority of women are “never the same again.” They will never recover their strength. For example, in our villages there is no running water. Women need to pump water out of a deep well. Before they are sterilized, women are strong enough to pump water. After they are sterilized, they are no longer strong enough to pump water. This weakness lasts forever and is devastating, because the family depends on the strength of the mother to do farm work.

Especially women whose first child is a girl feel they have to hide their second pregnancy, because they will be automatically sterilized after the second child. If their second child is also a girl, they do not want to be sterilized, because the procedure may break their health and because they want to try again for a boy. Many women will abort or abandon their second daughter under the Two-Child Policy, just as they did under the One Child Policy. The second daughters who are allowed to be born will be hidden, and thus denied *hukou*, as in our villages, *hukou* is given to second children only after the mother has been sterilized. Requiring sterilization in order for your child to register and obtain a birth certificate is an atrocity against both women and children.

#### **Forced abortion continues.**

If a woman is illegally pregnant now with her second child, Family Planning Officials will come to her home to demand an abortion. The Two-Child Policy has yet to be fully implemented. Women whose child was conceived before the implementation of the Two-Child Policy are still subject to forced abortion or astronomical “terror fines.”<sup>6</sup> If a woman wants a second child, she must first obtain a “birth permit.” These permits are not likely to become available until well into next year.

According to our network, if a woman is caught illegally pregnant and cannot pay the fine, she will still be forcibly aborted, as was the case under the One Child Policy. According to the president of a local hospital and a family planning official contacted by our network, if a woman runs away in an attempt to escape the fine, and

<sup>4</sup>“China’s Population-Control Machine Churns On.” <https://www.freedomhouse.org/blog/china-population-control-machine-churns-1/13/14>

<sup>5</sup>While shrinking, nearly half of China’s population remains rural, accounting for some 600 million people. World Bank: “Urban Population (% of total).” <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS>

<sup>6</sup>“No Help for Chinese Mom Expecting Second Child: New Two-Child Policy Won’t Be Enacted in Time to Save Pro-Life Leader Facing Pressure to Abort.” [http://www.worldmag.com/2015/10/no\\_relief\\_for\\_chinese\\_mom\\_expecting\\_second\\_child\\_10/30/15](http://www.worldmag.com/2015/10/no_relief_for_chinese_mom_expecting_second_child_10/30/15)



is caught, she will be forcibly aborted. The woman will have no recourse to a court of law, as courts will not accept such cases.

In our villages, whether or not a woman is actually forced to have an abortion depends on the circumstances. Women who are poor, whose relatives do not work for the government, and who do not have any power to defend themselves are more likely to be forcibly aborted than women who have money or whose relatives work for the government. Another factor is whether the Family Planning Official handling that particular case is merciful or merciless. A pitiless Family Planning Official confronting a poor and powerless woman will often lead to a forced abortion.

Women in our villages have resorted to desperate measures to avoid forced abortion when faced with an illegal pregnancy. The following situation is common in our area:

“Ai Bao” (not her real name) is a two-month old second daughter, with a three-year-old sister. Since this was an illegal second pregnancy, Ai Bao’s mother tried to hide her pregnancy. Still, a Family Planning Officer found her and pressed her to get an abortion. Ai Bao’s mother found an un-married pregnant woman, paid that woman ¥2000, and arranged for this woman to use the name of Ai Bao’s mother to get an abortion. In this way, Ai Bao’s mother obtained an abortion certification from the hospital in her own name and turned it in to the local Family Planning Office—to escape the forced abortion of her own daughter, Ai Bao.

#### **Gendecide will continue.**

Instituting a two-child policy will not end gendecide, the sex-selective abortion of baby girls. Indeed, areas in which two children currently are allowed are especially vulnerable to gendecide. According to the 2009 British Medical Journal study of data from the 2005 national census, in nine provinces, for “second order births” where the first child is a girl, 160 boys were born for every 100 girls. In two provinces, Jiangsu and Anhui, for the second child, there were 190 boys for every hundred girls born. This study stated, “sex selective abortion accounts for almost all the excess males.” Because of this gendecide, there are an estimated 37 million Chinese men who will never marry because their future wives were terminated before they were born. This gender imbalance is a powerful, driving force behind trafficking in women and sexual slavery, not only in China, but in neighboring nations as well.

There is little reason to hope that the two-child policy will result in a significant improvement of the sex ratios at birth. Many women whose first child is a boy may choose not to bear a second child because of the great expense of raising a child in China. In the alternative, they may choose not to have a second child to avoid the forced sterilization required after two children. Women whose first child is a girl will still abort second daughters in order to have a son.

In addition, a technology that is potentially dangerous to girls has found its way to China. It has recently been discovered that “cell free” fetal DNA can be found in the blood of the pregnant mother. Noninvasive prenatal testing, whose ominous acronym is “NIPT,” is a new way to detect chromosomal abnormalities of a fetus through analyzing the blood of the mother. This simple blood test given to the mother, however, can be used to determine the gender of a fetus as early as seven weeks into the pregnancy. Results are available within 48 hours. Where brutal son preference meets non-invasive, early sex-determination of a fetus, inevitably baby girls will be selectively aborted.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Hukou Abuses Continue.**

WRWF’s network reports that in our area, unless a woman is sterilized, her second child will be denied household registration or *hukou*. Without *hukou*, children are denied access to healthcare, education and other public benefits.

For illegal extra births, Chinese Family Planning Officials may exact enormous sums for a family to obtain *hukou*. Frustrated fathers have lost control and murdered family planning officials.<sup>8</sup> Some men have resorted to suicide in protest over

<sup>7</sup>“Experts Worried Pre-Natal Blood Test Might Lead to Sex-Selective Abortions.” <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/11980660/Experts-worried-pre-natal-blood-test-might-lead-to-sex-selective-abortions.html>. 11/6/15; “New Method Allows Noninvasive prenatal testing to detect more diseases: Study.” [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/201511/10/c\\_134799694.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/201511/10/c_134799694.htm), 11/10/15

<sup>8</sup>“Crazed Chinese father-of-four stabs two government officials to death over one child policy.” <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2376771/Chinese-father-kills-1-child-policy-officials-registering-4th-child.html> 7/24/13.

the excessive fines imposed by the government.<sup>9</sup> The spirit of the Cultural Revolution lives on in the family planning police, who have been able to steal, intimidate, torture and kill with relative impunity.

There has been recent talk of registering 13 million people who do not have *hukou*. The motive appears to be an attempt to “make the population look less unbalanced.”<sup>10</sup>

WRWF demands the unconditional end of the *hukou* system as being inhumane. Eliminating *hukou* by itself, however, will not end gendercide unless it is accompanied by the elimination of forced sterilization and all coercive birth limits. Women will not register a second child for *hukou* if they will be sterilized for doing so. Women will not register second daughters for *hukou* if by doing so they are giving up the chance to have a son.

#### **China’s Massive Population Control Apparatus Will Remain Intact.**

Some have publicly wondered: What will happen to the army of Family Planning Officials, now that China has “abolished” the One Child Policy?<sup>11</sup> This question is overly optimistic.

The Two-Child Policy remains just as coercive as the former One-Child Policy. This infrastructure of coercion can be turned to crush dissent of any kind. It will therefore be maintained under the Two-Child Policy.

There is growing unrest inside China. “[I]nternal Chinese law enforcement data on so-called “mass incidents”—a wide variety of protests ranging from sit-ins to strikes, marches and rallies, and even genuine riots—indicated that China has seen a sustained, rapid increase in those incidents from 8,700 in 1993 to nearly 60,000 in 2003, to more than 120,000 in 2008.<sup>12</sup> Meanwhile, there are as many as 1 million Family Planning Officials.<sup>13</sup> This army of Family Planning Officials can be turned in any direction to crush dissent of any sort. Does the Chinese Communist Party regard this army as necessary to maintain control in a tinder-box situation?

#### **The Chinese Communist Party Will Never Relinquish Coercive Population Control**

As fully explained in my Congressional testimony of April 30, 2015, the Chinese Communist Party will never relinquish coercive population control because 1) it enables them to maintain its grip on power through terror—it is social control, masquerading as population control; 2) it is a lucrative profit center, bringing in as much as \$314 billion in fines since its inception; 3) it provides and infrastructure of coercion that can be used to crush dissent of any sort; and 4) it ruptures relationships of trust, so that people cannot organize for change. I believe that the Chinese Communist Party is maintaining its grip on power by shedding the blood of the innocent women and babies of China.

#### **Conclusion**

Sending out the message that China has “abandoned” its one-child policy is detrimental to sincere efforts to stop forced abortion and gendercide in China, because

<sup>9</sup>“Chinese father of four commits suicide over one-child policy fines so his children can go to school.” <http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/chinese-father-of-four-commits-suicide-over-one-child-policy-fines-so-his-c-5/26/14>; “Farmer drinks poison after being fined for violations of family planning policy.” <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/830847.shtml> 12/8/13

<sup>10</sup>“Plan to Register 13 Million ‘Unofficial’ Chinese Sparks Doubts.” <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/plan-to-register-13-million-unofficial-chinese-sparks-doubts-11252015100418.html> 11/25/15

<sup>11</sup>“After the One-Child Policy: What Happens to China’s Family-Planning Bureaucracy?” <http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2015/11/12/after-the-one-child-policy-what-happens-to-chinas-family-planning-bureaucracy/> 11/12/15

<sup>12</sup>“China’s Social Unrest Problem—Testimony before the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.” Murray Scott Tanner, Ph.D. [http://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/Tanner\\_Written%20Testimony.pdf](http://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/Tanner_Written%20Testimony.pdf). 5/15/14; *see also*, “Rising Protests in China.” <http://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2012/02/rising-protests-in-china/100247/>. 2/17/12.

<sup>13</sup>“Family Planning: Enforcing with a smile.” <http://www.economist.com/news/china/21638131-enforcers-chinas-one-child-policy-are-trying-new-gentler-approach-enforcing-smile>. 1/10/15; “The bureaucracy that oversees family planning in China is enormous. According to official statistics of the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC), there are over 500,000 administrative staff and technical service providers from the central government down to the township level devoted to both policy enforcement and family planning generally. In addition, more than 1.2 million cadres assist in birth planning at the village level.” “After the One-Child Policy: What Happens to China’s Family-Planning Bureaucracy?” <http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2015/11/12/after-the-one-child-policy-what-happens-to-chinas-family-planning-bureaucracy/> 11/12/15

If China’s Family Planning Officials were an army, they would tie with North Korea as the sixth largest army in the world. “World’s Largest Armies.” <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/armies.htm>.

this message implies that the one-child policy is no longer a problem. In a world laden with compassion fatigue, people are relieved to cross China's one-child policy off of their list of things to worry about. But we must not do that. Let us not abandon the women of China, who continue to face forced abortion, and the baby girls of China, who continue to face sex-selective abortion and abandonment under the new Two-Child Policy.

The one-child policy does not need to be modified. It needs to be abolished.

#### **Policy Recommendations**

We respectfully request that the U.S. government urge the Chinese government to:

- Abolish the Two-Child Policy and all forms of coercive population control;
- Offer incentives for couples to have girls;<sup>14</sup>
- Offer pensions to couples who do not have a son, ensuring that parents of girls will not become impoverished in their old age; and
- Abolish the *hukou* system, so that all children will have access to healthcare and education.

In addition, we respectfully request that the U.S. government:

- Establish principles of Corporate Social Responsibility, to ensure that U.S. corporations do not allow coercive population control measures to be taken against their employees; and
- Defund UNFPA, unless and until UNFPA stops supporting or participating in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization in China, in violation of the 1985 Kemp-Kasten Amendment.

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<sup>14</sup>We have found in our "Save a Girl" campaign that the encouragement of modest monetary support is enough to make the difference between life and death to a baby girl. "Twin Girls Saved from Abortion in China, Husband's Family Only Wanted Boys." <http://www.lifenews.com/2014/05/30/twin-girls-saved-from-abortion-in-china-husband-family-told-wife-they-only-wanted-boys/> 5/30/14.

**Women's Rights and Coercive Implementation - My Pregnancy Story**

**Sarah Huang, Chinese Mother and Activist**

Congressional-Executive Commission on China

China's New "Two-Child Policy" & the Continuation of Massive Crimes Against Women and Children

December, 3, 2015

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Greetings Honorable Chairman Congressman Smith, Co-Chairman Senator Rubio, Members of the CECC, and distinguished guests.

**Introduction:** I am honored to have this opportunity to share my painful story and grateful for this country, which has provided necessary leadership in promoting human rights throughout the world, including working with the international community to persuade countries like China to adhere to international law and universal values on the protection of human dignity.

Since the beginning of this nation, the United States has had a rich history of leading the way in protecting human rights from the Declaration of Independence, which states "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

President Obama has even spoken on the importance of answering the responsibility of "To speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves." Speaking up for others is one of my family's core values and one of many reasons why my husband and I continually open our hearts and home to the vulnerable and the voiceless.

In America you have a choice; you can choose to speak up for the innocent or to stay silent. In my country, women are told they cannot speak up for their own bodies or for the children in their womb. In China this struggle is not about "pro-life" or "pro-choice", but about enduring torture (a forced or coerced abortion) or enduring strict punishment for disobeying. It is because of this that my phones ring constantly by the very few women that are courageous enough to defy the policy to keep their child. Complete strangers frequently call me and say, "I'm pregnant and have no options...I was told you can help me to keep my child." Of course, I try to help them all.

Unfortunately, I am just as busy now with the Chinese government's newly announced two-child policy as I was with the infamous one-child policy.

Although there is an expert here today that will share in more detail, please allow me to share briefly about the statistics. The Chinese government data reports that 13 million abortions are performed each year, for an average rate of 35,000 abortions per day. I personally believe the number is much higher because these statistics only include hospitals that report their figures and most abortions occur in unauthorized "black clinics" or at home. One reason why we think the number of abortions is considerably higher is because China is a shame-based culture. Chinese families do not want the

attention (or tax liability) of going to an official abortion clinic where they are required to register and show their ID. As a result, most Chinese women who receive abortions choose to do it anonymously at unregistered clinics, known as “black clinics.”

In China people often remark that there are more abortion clinics in China than barber shops. Those that work inside China to prevent coercive abortions, such as myself and my colleagues at the China Life Alliance, believe a conservative estimate to be closer to more than 20 million abortions per year based on a variety of factors.

All that to say, even using the most conservative estimates, experts agree that more abortions take place every five years in China than throughout all of American history combined. Statistically, a Chinese mother’s womb is one of the most dangerous places to be for an unborn child, as many do not get out alive.

**Some may ask, “Why would I risk so much to come here today to testify?”**

Since the time my husband and I found out I was pregnant with my second child we have had to work extremely hard to keep my baby alive. Instead of arranging the nursery and having a baby shower, I have been in hiding, wondering and waiting if I will get caught for disobeying direct orders. I have actually been worried that government officials will find me and force my abortion. Because of this reality, I have had to risk fleeing to America in order to protect the baby in my womb. My family and I arrived in America just prior to Thanksgiving, and now I am given this chance to share with you today.

My answer for why I am here being simply because I believe it can make a difference in the lives of the thousands of women like me who are pregnant in China today and are crying out because their babies (and bodies) are not protected by our government or its policies. I believe that the people in this room, in this city, and in this country have the courage to stand up for what is right and I believe that you deserve to know the truth.

That being said, I am proud to be Chinese and I love my country, however, I am compelled to speak up and shine a light on the reality of what is happening in China because Chinese lives are important, the protection of women and babies are important.

In my country, China, we have a saying, “a woman’s body is not her own.” In fact, we have been told this all our lives. This way of thinking has penetrated every aspect of our culture and has forced women like me who are pregnant to be required to abort or abandon our babies. Today, I am not just speaking on my own behalf. Over the last few years under the one-child policy I have personally assisted Chinese families with saving and hiding more than 80 babies within my home and in safe houses throughout China.

These are the success stories. For each of those brave mothers that persevered, hid and risked everything to disobey the government’s policy to keep their children, there were others that did not have the courage, or the right circumstances to keep their beloved child in their womb. Chinese mothers, like most around the world, want the choice to keep their child in their womb. In China, they can’t if they do not qualify under the strict restrictions of the one or two-child policy. Therefore, I am speaking today on behalf of all the mothers in China who deserve the right to control their own womb.

First, I want to briefly share my pregnancy story, and how although I am pregnant with my second child, I am not protected under China's so-called two-child policy.

Next, I will share my experiences and observations of the current situation for all pregnant women in China as it relates to the newly announced two-child policy.

Lastly, I would like to leave you with a challenge.

### **My Pregnancy Story**

My husband and I have wanted a second child for many years. So after finding out we were pregnant we were of course very happy. Especially when we heard that the one child policy had been cancelled, and thought our problems had been solved. We even heard in the news that "everyone in China can now have a second child". Although we were skeptical, our immediate reaction was to rejoice as this would mean a lot more babies born to families that wanted to keep them. We thought all our problems were solved until we heard from my husband's employer (the Chinese government) that the abortion would be mandatory if we failed to present proof that I had an IUD installed. Since then, my husband has been threatened and given a deadline to prove that the abortion has been completed successfully; otherwise he will lose his job.

It was at this time that we went into hiding. My husband and I's primary goal was to protect my baby's life, then consider our own well-being. After the baby is born we intend on returning to our life as normal and paying the consequences. The fine may cost close to \$36,000 dollars, though we are still in the middle of this process and cannot say for certain what will happen. All we know is that the two-child policy does not apply to our circumstances. We do not meet the unique criteria necessary, for whatever reason.

### **My experience and observation**

My first observation regarding the newly announced two-child policy is that although it is better than the one-child policy, it is a lie that "every couple is allowed to now conceive two babies." It's not the case for me, or other families that are currently in hiding in China. However, the new two-child policy is not completely bad. A majority, but not all, families will meet the criteria and be allowed to keep their second child. However, clearly China's change to a two-child policy is not enough. Chinese families who attempt to have two children could still be subject to coercive and intrusive forms of contraception and forced abortions – which amount to torture.

My second observation is that families in China are required to have permission before they are allowed to get pregnant. If families do not have a birth permit, they are subject to punishment regardless of the one or two-child policy.

In my third observation, I'd like to point out some common myths surrounding this issue.

First, don't believe the Chinese government's press releases on their family planning policies. Several members of the Chinese government have been saying that "forced abortions do not happen in China." Not true. I can tell you numerous stories and show you pictures that prove otherwise. In fact, we know of jail cells that are located in rural

government offices that exist to hold elderly people hostage until their pregnant relative provides proof of having an abortion. I can take you to these places. China Life Alliance conducted a rescue at one of these locations and has the testimony on video. Although these jail cells were previously under the control of the family planning bureau, they have only recently received a name change, and are under the control of the same officials.

Another common myth is that China's brutal family planning bureau has been dissolved, thus removing all of its corrupt practices and acts of impunity. Not true. It has simply been renamed. Although I don't doubt there may be some positive changes, the truth is that the same party members that worked for the family planning bureau are now employed by the national health and family planning bureau, which maintains a strict quota-based system that drives employees to abuse others in order to protect their jobs.

The fourth observation is that if China cares about its people as much as it does about its economy, why did it not abolish birth restrictions completely? The enforcement of coercive birth restrictions doesn't reflect modern or universally held values, so there must be an anterior motive. Although I do not know the Chinese government's motivation for its family planning policies, I do know that it comes at the expense of its people.

The fifth observation relates to gendercide, and the cultural preference for boys, which is supported by the government as it encourages family planning control measures. The Chinese government continues to turn a blind eye to the murder of baby girls and refuses to press charges against the perpetrators. Thus, we must ask, will coercive implementation continue? Of course it will. The Chinese government will continue to encourage gendercide and support corporate policies that control population growth within both the public and private sector. A similar phenomenon is occurring in Taiwan, which also has one of the highest abortion rates in the world. Why is this? I believe it relates to a Chinese cultural norm that prefers sons over daughters. Clearly, this pattern is destructive and should be addressed by both the Chinese and Taiwanese governments.

My fifth and final observation is regarding "black clinics," which are unregistered abortion clinics that typically have an illegal ultrasound machine that tell expecting parents the gender of the child. These clinics offer a variety of services from gender identification to late-term abortions with all services offered on an anonymous basis.

Last year, I took an American reporter into one of these clinics, who became sick to her stomach as she witnessed a floor stained in blood, and a back room where forced abortions were performed. Unfortunately, these clinics are very busy and exist in almost every city in China. They are not hard to find. I recently began working with China Life Alliance to map all of these clinics so abortion rescue teams could attempt rescues. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the project because there were way too many to count.

#### **Conclusion and Challenge:**

Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to leave you with a challenge.

I do believe that things will change, but how many must suffer before that happens? I hope that many years from now, our children's children will remember us as the generation that did something about this great tragedy. As we are the ones who are aware

of what is happening in China, we have an inherent responsibility to act. I will also pray that the day will come where China will no longer coercively control women's wombs.

I believe this could be one of the most tragic events of modern world history. Can you imagine the history books revealing that the Chinese government, through their one and two-child policies having killed more babies and brutalized more women than such events as the plague, or both World Wars combined? These tragedies are happening, and if we don't do something, I ask, who will? If we don't say something, again, who will?

I am convinced that if any other country in the world was committing such terrible crimes against humanity that China is perpetrating, that the world would not endure it. Perhaps even the United States would boldly defend those who are defenseless, especially if these tragedies were occurring in a country with a weaker economy and military power than China. The world remembers the shameful Atlantic Slave Trade, which claimed more than 15 Million lives between the 17th and 19th centuries. Interestingly, it seems absurd that any human would have been silent to the brutal treatment of humans that took place in that era. In a similar way, such brutality is occurring in China today. Millions of women and their baby's each year are being mercilessly told what their fate will be. I imagine in the future people will wonder a similar question, "how was it possible that people knew about this and did not respond?" Clearly, it is time for action.

Perhaps you've heard this famous quote from William Wilberforce, who said, "You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know."

To be sure, even after the two-child policy is completely implemented, there will continue to be hundreds, if not thousands of women and families crying out in China each day because they are required to abort their child against their will.

Surely, the international community would agree that no human should be forced to regulate the number of children they can conceive. Thus, if the Chinese government is serious about respecting human rights, and being recognized as a legitimate and trusted government, it should begin by immediately ending all family planning policies and the United States should actively engage the Chinese government on this front.

Thank you.

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## 妇女的权益和强制实施堕胎-我的怀孕故事

莎拉黄，一位中国母亲和人权活动家

国会-行政中国事务委员会 (CECC)

中国“二胎化”新政以及持续针对妇女和儿童的大规模犯罪

2015年十一月三日

尊敬的史密斯议员，鲁比奥参议员，CECC 的先生和女士们，以及各位尊贵的来宾，

简介：我很荣幸地有这次机会分享我本人惨痛的经历，并对这个国家深怀感激，因为美国在全世界倡导推动人权，和国际社会合作，规劝类似中国的国家遵守国际法，尊重普世价值以保护人的尊严。

自建国以来，美国有着丰富的历史经验，引领维护在独立宣言中确立的人权保障，其中宣称“人人被造平等，造物者赋予他们若干不可剥夺的权利，其中包括生命权、自由权和追求幸福的权利。”

奥巴马总统甚至提到有责任“为不能发声的人代言”的重要性。为他人代言是我的核心准则之一，也是为什么我和我的丈夫愿意继续向那些无助的人和不能发声的人敞开我们的心和我们的家。

在美国你可以选择，你可以选择为无辜的人大声疾呼，也可以选择沉默。在我的国家，妇女们被告知，她们不可以为她们的身體或是为子宫的胎儿呼吁。在中国，这场争战不是关于“反对堕胎”或是“堕胎应合法化”；强制性或胁迫性的堕胎是一场持续的折磨，或者说是对于不服从者的持续的严厉惩罚。因为这个缘故，我的电话才会响个不停，有那么一些勇敢的妇女为了保住她们的孩子，敢于挑战这个政策。那些和我素不相识的妇女经常打电话找我，说，“我怀孕了，我走投无路。有人告诉我说，你能帮我保住我的孩子。”当然，我总是想方设法帮助她们所有人。

我曾经因为反对臭名昭彰的一胎化政策忙碌于很多的事情，不幸的是，二胎化政策并没有让我轻松。

虽然这里有一位专家今天会提供更多细节，请允许我简单分享一些数据。中国政府的数据报告说每年实施一千三百万的堕胎手术，每天平均有三万五千个堕胎手术。我个人相信实际的数字应该高得多。因为官方数据只包括了医院提供的数字。大部分的堕胎是在未经注册的黑诊所或在家里完成的。我们认为真实的数字高得多的原因之一是根据中国文化基于羞耻心的特点。中国家庭不愿意去官方的诊所堕胎丢人现眼，在那里他们会被要求登记，出具身份证。因此，大多数中国妇女选择去未经注册登记的诊所，所谓的“黑诊所”，不具名地接受流产手术。

在中国人们常常说，堕胎诊所多过理发店。根据国内的一些竭力阻止胁迫性堕胎的人，像我和在中国生命联盟工作的同事根据各种因素的保守估计，每年有接近两千万的堕胎完成。

总而言之，即使用最保守的数据，专家们同意，在中国每五年发生的堕胎高于美国历史上发生的所有堕胎数字的总和。从统计学的角度上来看，中国母亲的子宫成为最危及胎儿安全的地方之一，很多的胎儿没有活着降生。

有人会问，“你为什么冒着这么大的风险到这里来作证？”

自从我丈夫和我发现我怀了第二个孩子之后，我们费劲周折来保全我们的胎儿。我们无法布置婴儿房或是接受送给孩子的礼物，我反而是东躲西藏，担惊受怕会不会因为违反政府的命令我被抓住。事实上我担心政府官员会抓住我，强迫我流产。基于这个现实考虑，我不得不逃到美国以保住我的胎儿。我们全家于感恩节前夕到达美国，我才有今天这个机会来分享我的故事。

所以，我对这个问题的回答是，我相信我的证词会帮助改变中国成千上万像我一样的怀孕妇女的生活处境，因为她们的胎儿得不到中国政府或是政府的政策的保护。我相信在这个房间的人们，这个城市和国家的人民，具备道德勇气来主持正义，我相信你们有权利知道事实真相。

尽管如此，我仍然为是一个中国人骄傲，我爱我的国家，但是，我不得不大声疾呼，揭露发生在中国的事实真相，因为中国人的生命重要，保护妇女和胎儿的生命非常重要。

在我的国家中国，有一句名言说，“妇女的身体不属于她自己。”事实上，我们一生被灌输这样的观念。这样的想法已经深入到我们的文化的方方面面，迫使像我一样的怀孕妇女去堕胎放弃我们的胎儿。今天，我并不是仅仅为我自己代言。过去几年里，中国还在实施一胎化政策的年代，经过我的帮助，在我的家以及遍布中国的安全屋，80多个胎儿的性命得到保全。

这些是成功的故事。这些勇敢的中国母亲历经万难，东躲西藏，冒着风险，不服从政府的命令，从而保住了她们的胎儿。同时，也有其他的中国妇女没有这样的勇气，或是缺乏合适的时机，失去了她们的孩子。中国的母亲，就像世界上的大多数的母亲，渴望有这样的选择权利去保住她们腹中的胎儿。在中国，如果她们不符合一胎化或二胎化政策下严苛的条件的话，她们无法选择。因此，我今天代表所有中国的母亲说，她们应当对她们的子宫有控制权。

首先，我想简略分享我的怀孕经历，以及为什么我虽怀上第二个孩子，却无法得到中国的二胎化政策的保护。

其次，我要分享我的个人经历和对中国的怀孕妇女的现状的观察，特别是涉及到新出台的二胎化政策方面。

最后，我要留给你们一个挑战。

### 我的怀孕故事

我丈夫和我想要第二个孩子已经很久了。所以发现我怀孕后我们自然是非常开心。特别是我们听到一胎化政策被废除，以为我们不会有任何麻烦。我们甚至听到报道说，“在中国所有的人都可以有第二个孩子。”虽然我们有怀疑，我们还是非常欣喜，因为这意味着想要孩子的家庭可以有更多的孩子。我们以为问题解决了，直到我丈夫的雇主（中国政府）通知他，我们必须出具孕警证，否则我必须堕胎。我丈夫受到威胁，他被要求拿出最后期限证明我已经做了人工流产，否则他会失去工作。

从那时我们开始躲起来。我丈夫和我的首要目标是保住胎儿的性命，至于我们俩的福祉是其次的考虑。待到孩子出生后，我们如果想要我们的生活恢复正常，只有交付罚金。虽然我们正在交涉过程当中，无法确定最后的结果是什么，但是罚金可能高达三万六千美金。我们所知道的就是二胎化政策不适用我们的情况；不知是什么原因，我们不符合二胎化政策下规定的必要条件。

### 我的经历和观察

首先，关于新出台的二胎化政策，虽然好过一胎化政策，“现在许可每对夫妇有第二个孩子”是一个谎言。它不适用于我的情况，以及不适用那些目前在中国被迫躲藏起来的家庭。但是，二胎化政策并不完全的坏。虽然不是所有的家庭，但是大多数家庭可能符合条件，可以保留他们的第二个孩子。但是，二胎化政策产生的改变明显地不够。那些想要连个孩子的家庭仍然可能会遭受强制性绝育措施或人工流产，等于是肉体折磨。

第二个观察是，我发现在中国的家庭必须取得准生证才能怀孕。如果一个家庭没有准生证，不管是在一胎化还是二胎化政策下，他们会被惩罚。

第三，我想指出有关这个问题的一些错误看法。

其一，不要相信中国政府发布的关于计划生育政策的新闻公告。中国政府的几位官员声称“强制堕胎在中国已不存在。”那不是事实。我可以告诉你许多的故事和出具照片，指出事实正好相反。事实上，我们知道中国农村的政府部门甚至设置拘留所，扣押老年人作为人质，直到他们怀孕的亲戚提供堕胎的证明。我可以带你去看这些地方。中国生命联盟曾经在其中一个地方组织了一场营救，并将受害人的证词录像。虽然那些拘留所以前属于国家计划生育委员会，现在只是换了一个名称而已，它们仍然被同一批官员控制。

另外一个常见的错觉是，国家计划生育委员会已经解体，因此相关的腐败行为以及其不受司法处罚的现象也一并清除。那不是事实。这个机构只是换了个名称而已。我并不否认可能会有一些积极的改变，事实是为其效力的同一批党员干部现在为国家卫生和计划生育委员会工作。这个机构实行严格的堕胎配额制，从而促使计生官员为保住饭碗继续去做伤天害理的事情。

第四，如果中国政府真的是关心人民的福祉如同关心经济发展，为什么不彻底废除计划生育政策呢？执行强制性的计划生育不能体现现代的普世价值，所以一定有其他的动机。虽然我不明了中国政府实施计划生育政策的动机是什么，我确实知道人民付出了高昂代价。

第五个观察涉及到残杀女婴的现象和偏好男婴的文化，实际上得到政府的支持，因为政府鼓励贯彻计划生育的措施。中国政府继续对残杀女婴听之任之，拒绝起诉杀人者。因此，我们必须问，强制性的措施会继续下去吗？当然会。中国政府将继续鼓励残杀女婴，并支持国有和私营企业制定的控制人口增长的公司政策。类似现象也在台湾发生。台湾有世界上排名前列的堕胎率。为什么呢？我相信这跟重男轻女中国文化有关。很明显，对于这种具有毁灭性的现象，中国政府和台湾当局应当妥善处理。

第五也是最后一个的观察是关于“黑诊所”，即未经登记注册的诊所通过操作非法的超声波仪器，鉴定胎儿的性别。这类诊所提供一系列的服务，从性别鉴定到后期堕胎，都不需要客户提供真实的姓名身份。

去年，我曾带一个美国记者进入一个这样的诊所。当看到地板上的斑斑血迹，以及实施堕胎手术的密室，她恶心得要吐。不幸的是，这类诊所生意兴旺，遍布中国的各个城市，要找到这样的诊所并不难。最近我和中国生命联盟合作，帮他们绘制这类诊所的分布图，以便营救小队开展防止堕胎的营救活动。可惜我们不得不取消这项计划，因为这类诊所实在太多了。

### **结语和挑战**

在我结束之前，我要留给你们一个挑战。

我坚信现状可以改变，可是需要多少人受到伤害才能导致改变呢？我希望，许多年之后，我们的后代将记住我们这一代，实实在在地做了一些事情来改变这样的悲剧。因为我们这些人意识到正在中国发生的事情，我们有责任采取行动。我也祈求，那一天将到来，中国妇女的子宫不再受到强制性的控制。

我相信这是现代世界历史上最大的悲剧之一。你能想象，历史书籍揭示，中国政府通过一胎化和二胎化政策所扼杀的胎儿，以及所摧残的妇女人数，超过任何瘟疫，或是两次世界大战的总和所夺走的人口吗？这样的悲剧正在发生。试问，如果我们不行动起来，谁会呢？如果我们不发声，谁会发声呢？

如果世界上其它国家犯下这样可怕的反人类的罪行，如同中国一样，我深信国际社会不会容忍的。如果这样的悲剧发生在一个经济和军事力量不及中国强大的国家，也许美国会挺身保护那些无助的人们。这个世界还记得发生在 17 世纪和 19 世纪期间的可耻的大西洋奴隶贸易。黑奴贸易夺走了一千五百万的人命。如果任何人发生在那个时代对人的残忍虐待保持沉默，似乎会是不可思议的事情。同样，类似的野蛮行径今天就在中国发生。上百万的中国妇女和她们的胎儿被无情地告知她们

的命运已经注定。我可以想象，将来人们会问一个同样的问题，“怎么可能人们明明知道有这样的事情，却没有反应呢？”显然的，采取行动的时候到了。

也许你们听到过威廉威伯福斯德一句名言，“你可以选择视而不见，但是你无法重复地说，你一无所知。”

可以肯定的是，即使二胎化政策实施到位，在中国每天仍然会有成百上千，如果不是上千上万的妇女和家庭呼号抗议，因为他们被迫将胎儿人工流产。

国际社会肯定同意，任何人都不应该被限制她们可以孕育的孩子的数目。那么，如果中国政府真正地要尊重人权的话，想要被接受为一个合法，可信任的政府的话，他们应该立即终止计划生育的政策，同时美国政府应该在方面督促中国政府。

谢谢。

## PREPARED STATEMENT OF JENNIFER LI

DECEMBER 3, 2015

## CHINA THROUGH MY EYES, AS AN AMERICAN EXPATRIATE

Honorable Chairman Congressman Smith, Co-Chairman Senator Rubio, Members of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, and distinguished guests:

I am honored to be here today, and to speak with you about China's new two child policy, to share my perspective and my experience with you.

I moved to China seven years ago. My husband and I were eager to learn the language and get to know the culture. We knew that a one child policy existed, and we knew that boys were considered the more desirable gender in Chinese culture. At first, neither of these things seemed that significant, until we began to really look around us. On the way to school in the morning, on the backs of grandparents' bicycles, we would see two boys for every girl. As children were doing their exercises in the school yards, we noticed the same thing: boys in great number, girls in lesser. We began to ask questions; "Where are all the girls?", "Where are the children with disabilities?", "Do these families WANT more than one child? Or are they satisfied?"

As our language skills increased and as we began to make friends among local families, it all began to make sense. Couples were being pressured in draconian ways to manage their family size with abortions. It was hard to believe, but it was real. Despite it being illegal to tell parents the gender of an unborn baby, "black" abortion clinics are enabling parents to have gender-selective abortions.

As to the question "do they want more than one child?" I asked the question of hundreds of people, old and young, during my time in China, and every single time, the answer was "YES, I wish I could have as many as I want. But I can't."

I would walk down the street with my children, and every day, every single day, one or more people would tell me how "lucky" I was that I had a few children, and bemoan the fact that their government would only let them have one.

We can call it a "one-child policy" or a "two-child policy." We can call it whatever we want. But we cannot deny the reality that it leaves men and women across the country without the reproductive rights the rest of the world thinks of as a basic human right.

As our awareness of this heartbreak in China grew, so did my husband's and my desire to do something about it. It started off just as helping a few friends who were pregnant. We realized quickly that this was not "pro-life" work as we understood it in the west. The common answer that I learned while volunteering in the USA at pregnancy resource centers was "You have options." In China, there were seemingly no options. As we embraced our friends our burden grew. We, along with a small team of local individuals, started a coalition for the purpose of helping pregnant women who wanted to keep their children. As time passed, we learned that there are ways to save babies in China. After starting a variety of creative baby-saving initiatives and enduring great hardships, we partnered with churches and nonprofit groups to form what is now known as China Life Alliance, a coalition of Chinese individuals and groups that rescue thousands of children each year before they are abandoned, sold, or killed. We do this by educating and mobilizing groups to rescue women and save children through our safe house network, legal aid network, coerced-abortion rescue teams, and many other ways.

Over the years, my husband, the CLA team and I have seen unimaginable and horrible human rights violations right before our eyes. This has been the greatest and most difficult cause of our life. However, today I would like to step back and to share with you the personal stories of three of my friends. Each has a unique story. Each of them is dear to my heart. For each of them, the outcome would not have been much different under this new, "two-child policy."

1) First, I want to tell you about my friend and language teacher, Lydia. She translated for me during an ultrasound when I was pregnant. Hospitals do not usually allow women to see their ultrasound images, and despite having a master's degree, Lydia had never seen an image of a baby in the womb. As she watched my child moving around inside me, she was moved to tears by the wonder of it. Lydia had one child and had already had one coerced abortion. A year later, when she became pregnant again, she and her husband ended up on our living room couch sobbing, because they did not want to end the life of their child. She and her husband made many brave and difficult choices, and through the support of other Chinese people they met through the China Life Alliance, came up with solutions to save the life of their unborn child.

2) Next, I'd like to share with you the story of my friend Ivy. Ivy was a single college student when she discovered that she was pregnant by her married pro-

fessor. The consequences for Ivy, when she chose to give birth to her daughter, and not abort or abandon her, were severe. Ivy was kicked out of college and her daughter was never issued a birth certificate, which meant she could not go to school, be treated at a hospital, or travel. She is one of the most courageous women I have ever met. Because she was a single mother, Ivy could not get a normal, government sanctioned job. She spent her daughter's entire life getting paid "under the table" for the work she did. She did this with virtually no support, other than from a few people in her church. No man would marry her, because under that one child policy, they would not be able to have a child of their own. Now Ivy is one of the women who works in the China Life Alliance Network to help other women who find themselves single and pregnant.

3) Population control like this can put a dramatic pressure on families who have a child born with a disability. My friend and I were involved with Grace, who had a baby girl born with Down syndrome. In their minority people group, they would be allowed to have two children. The pressure of feeling they needed to have both children be "healthy" and preferably male, in order to help earn income for the family, proved to be too much for them. Then Grace's mother-in-law attempted to smother the infant when she was only 5 days old. Grace called my friend and we went to try to encourage the family, and to help them think through other options. Over and over, we heard both the parents, as well as the grandparents say "it wouldn't be a big deal if we knew we could just have more kids!" But this one "imperfect" child would count as part of their quota, and the family economics couldn't figure out how to make that work.

It is hard for me to stay composed when I share these stories. I saw the tears, I felt their fears. I held their hands and I hold their stories in my heart. I want the world to see the reality of the heartbreak population control has brought to the people of this beautiful nation. While we rejoice for the few families who will now be able to have two children instead of one, I believe we must continue to speak up for the rights of the women, men, and children whose lives are so deeply affected by this policy. As we ask what we can do and how we can move forward, let us remember the stories of Lydia, Amy, and Grace. Let us honor their courage and bring about change that gives them hope.

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PREPARED STATEMENT OF STEVEN W. MOSHER

DECEMBER 3, 2015

A NEW DAWN OF REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM IN CHINA?

*Despite the new Two-Child Policy, the Chinese Communist Party remains as firmly in control of fertility as ever.*

INTRODUCTION

The Chinese Communist Party has decided that all Chinese couples will soon be allowed to have a second child, rather than being restricted to only one, as some now are.

Foreign observers have generally greeted the apparent end of the one-child policy with euphoria, as if it somehow represents a new birth of reproductive freedom in China. Some have publicly commended the Chinese leadership as if they had decided to completely abolish a policy that has caused so much physical, emotional, and spiritual damage to the families in the nation.

But the Chinese leadership has done no such thing. China is not backing away from draconian birth limits because Communist Party leader Xi Jinping has suddenly developed a conscience. No one in the senior leadership has ever lost any sleep over the 400 million unborn and newborn children their policy has killed over the past 35 years, or shed a tear for the hundreds of millions of young mothers forcibly aborted and sterilized over this same period, or had a moment's regret for China's tens of millions of missing baby girls.

What keeps them up at night is the dawning realization that their misguided policy is crippling China's future economic growth. For at least the past two years, China's workforce has been shrinking. Last year, the potential workforce fell by 3.71 million, a significant number even by China's standards. At the same time, the over-sixty population is exploding. According to U.N. projections, it is expected to more than double by 2050, reaching an astonishing 437 million. China is growing old before it grows rich, and the strains on China's nascent pension programs will be enormous.

The parallels between China's current demographic and economic malaise and Japan's demographic and economic decline are striking. The Japanese economy has never really recovered from its "demographic recession" that began in the nineties, brought on by a shrinking workforce and a rapidly aging population. China may not recover either (as the leadership is now belatedly coming to understand) despite the move to a two-child policy.

But there is another reason, even more fundamental, why I am not celebrating the end of the one-child policy. Regardless of whether Party leaders allow Chinese couples to have one, two, or even three children, the *underlying* policy has not—and probably will not—change.

What underlying policy, you may ask? I am referring to the policy of "Planned Birth"—*jihua shengyu* in Chinese—under which the Chinese state, rather than the Chinese people, decide how many children are to be born in China each year.

It was none other than Chairman Mao himself, the founder of the People's Republic of China, who first put the Planned Birth policy in place. The Great Helmsman, as he was known, decided way back in the 1950s that the five-year economic plans being drawn up by the Chinese Communist Party should control not just production, but *reproduction*. And they have, ever since.

#### THE PLANNED BIRTH POLICY: COERCIVE FROM THE BEGINNING

Not long after the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Party-State undertook to control the fertility of the Chinese people. A national Planned Birth program was in place and operational by 1953 which—except for periods of major political upheaval—has continued to the present day. Some imagine that these early days were a kind of "golden age" where women were merely "informed" about their "reproductive choices," and then left to use the drugs, devices, and surgeries of their choice. *This has never been the case*. As a general rule, the Chinese Party-State has never been content to simply provide education in, and encouragement to use, family planning methods. Rather, it has always viewed population as a mathematical equation to be solved, and been all-too-ready to resort to quotas and widespread compulsion when its proposed "solution" meets resistance from the masses. This tendency to use coercive measures is literally "built into" the Planned Birth program, not to mention into the Dictatorship of the Proletariat itself. When a one-party dictatorship draws up a plan, the masses are expected to follow in lockstep. Opposition to the plan is seen as seditious, and is oftentimes even characterized as counterrevolutionary. The Planned Birth campaign is no exception.

The first phase of this program of state-planned births ran until 1958, when it was derailed by the economic chaos of the Great Leap Forward and the mass famine that followed. The campaign resumed in 1962, but this second phase was barely under way before it was abruptly terminated in 1966 by the virtual civil war that was Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. After the People's Liberation Army was called in to restore order in 1969, the campaign resumed. From that point forward, the Planned Birth campaign has continued more or less continuously to the present day.

Strong-arm measures were already apparent in the first phase of the Planned Birth campaign. Although they were less noticeable in the second, truncated phase, they increased markedly during the third phase *even before the start of the one-child policy*. The two main strategies used by the Party during the early-to-mid 1970s—often linked in the Planned Birth propaganda of the time—were (1) to delay age at marriage and (2) to mandate that multiparous women wear IUDs. Although the state-run media remained largely silent on the question of coercion, there are credible reports that officials sometimes resorted to forced IUD insertions and forced sterilizations during this period. The end result was that the Chinese birth rate plummeted as the decade progressed.

#### *Coercion in the 1970s*

When the Party-State began to function again in 1969, it resumed its efforts to control China's population. No longer would China's children be allowed to run riot as Red Guards; instead, their numbers would be drastically restricted. The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, in conjunction with the State Council, soon issued a "Directive on Promoting Planned Birth Conscientiously" which left no doubt about who would decide how many babies were to be born in China. It read:

To promote Planned Birth in cities and in densely populated rural areas and to appropriately control the natural population growth rate so that the problem of births will gradually *turn from a state of no planning to a state of planning is a confirmed policy of socialist construction in our country.* (italics added)



The Party began by having its propaganda outlets attack the “feudal custom” of early marriage and repudiate what it called “the reactionary theory on marriage” that had supposedly been “advocated by Confucius and Mencius,” who were all-purpose whipping boys in those late Cultural Revolution days. Late marriage, on the other hand, was exalted as part of the “thought of Mao Zedong” and an important aspect of the “class struggle.” Nationalism was also used to whip up enthusiasm for birth planning by describing it as an essential part of a “patriotic health campaign.” As the Party-State apparently intended, this harsh “class struggle” campaign rhetoric inspired equally harsh measures on the part of lower-level officials to control births. The Shanghai Party Committee, for instance, designated the week of January 25, 1970 as “shock week” for the promotion of birth control and late marriage. During this week, the Committee ordered, the masses were to be “mobilized,” every family was to be visited by officials “in a penetrating and vigorous manner,” and “remedial measures” were to be taken “whenever problems are discovered.” “Remedial measures,” of course, are a veiled reference to coercive practices such as forced IUD insertion and worse. Similar campaigns were soon being undertaken in other cities and in rural areas.

In January 1971 the *People’s Daily* made the astonishing claim that “to promote with great effort late marriage and planned births and mobilize commune members to practice Planned Birth” was one of the “demands” of Chinese women. (italics added) In fact, there was considerable opposition to the de facto two-child policy that the Party-State was effectively imposing on the Chinese people by insisting that all women who had borne two children wear IUDs. But, in typical fashion, the Party-State blamed opposition on “class enemies” rather than admit to the existence of popular dissent. PRC President Liu Shaoqi, who was purged by Mao during the early stages of the Cultural Revolution, was a particular target. It was Liu’s “poisonous influence” that was responsible for the opposition to the planned birth campaign, went the official line, for he had spoken “disparagingly” of the Party-State’s efforts to regulate births.

In contrast, planned birth was said to have been encouraged by the Great Helmsman himself. Direct statements by Chairman Mao Zedong on the policy are hard to find, although he was said to have remarked during the 1950s that childbearing in China was “in a state of anarchy.” Other than this we find his name invoked in a more general way:

Planned Birth is a work of momentous significance promoted by great leader Chairman Mao and the Party Center and is an important measure for carrying out Chairman Mao’s great strategic plan, “Be prepared against war, be prepared against natural disasters, and do everything for the people.” . . .

Thus, Planned Birth is an important thing bearing on the health of the nation, not a trifling matter concerning [only] an individual or a family. . .

Elsewhere we find the *People’s Daily* asserting that Planned Birth work was “in accordance with Chairman Mao’s brilliant instruction that mankind has to control itself and to multiply in a planned way.” When local cadres proved reluctant to impose the Planned Birth policy on their fellow villagers, whom they lived among, Mao’s earlier remark that childbearing in China was “in a state of anarchy” was resurrected, but without attribution:

Planned Birth is a social revolution aimed at changing the customs and habits, breaking the old and building the new. On the question of childbirth, to go over from a *state of anarchy* to the practice of planning will inevitably meet with resistance. Such resistance comes mainly from the sabotage of the class enemies and from the influence of old ideas and old concepts left over from several thousand years. (italics added)

It is not surprising that most couples in China were upset, even angry, over the Party’s usurpation of their traditional prerogatives in childbearing. Rather than bowing to the popular will, however, the Chinese leadership doubled down. It launched a nationwide propaganda campaign which claimed that opposition to the new policy was being fomented by “class enemies” and “counterrevolutionaries,” even as it acknowledged that “feudal ideas” about childbearing were deeply etched in the minds of the Chinese people. By making opposition to the state’s Planned Birth policy tantamount to treason, the Party raised the stakes for those—both within Party circles and among the population at large—who might otherwise have opposed it.

At the same time the Party’s propaganda machine went into overdrive to try and create at least the *perception* of popular support. Newspapers like the *Guangzhou ribao* insisted that state birth planning was not only in “the interests and aspirations of the masses of people,” but was in fact “an urgent demand of the broad masses of the people.” Not only that, but Planned Birth was “gradually becoming

the compelling demand and spontaneous action of the masses.” The Party’s broadsheet was in effect claiming that Chinese couples were so excited by the prospect of limiting their progeny that they were lining up and *demanding* to be contracepted, sterilized, and aborted. State-run radio broadcasts were similarly over the top. Radio Hangzhou breathlessly asserted that a large-scale sterilization and IUD-insertion campaign carried out locally in Zhejiang province had not only been a success, but had won “the acclaim of the masses.” Like the *Guangzhou ribao*, it made the highly dubious claim that “the spontaneity of the masses for practicing late marriage and Planned Birth control for the revolution is being continuously enhanced.”

By August 1974 the Chinese Party-State was ready to announce to the world, through its official news agency, XINHUA, that the country’s Planned Birth policy had “achieved initial success.” Anticipating that the international community might suspect that this “success” had been achieved through coercion, XINHUA’s English-language dispatches insisted that Chinese families had merely been “advised to have no more than two children” and that the Planned Birth policy was being carried out “on a voluntary basis under state guidance.” Later that month, that same chilling line—that the policy followed the principle of “voluntary with state guidance”—was repeated in the English language journal *Beijing Review*. How the Planned Birth policy could be “voluntary” when couples were expected to follow “state guidance” in bearing children was not explained. Later, I was to witness the Party’s version of “voluntarism” in action as groups of three or four officials would “guide” distraught pregnant mothers to a local clinic for “voluntary” second- and third-trimester abortions.

These several articles also asserted that oral contraceptives, IUDs, and sterilization were generally accepted, that the program was now being spread to the countryside, and that it was there meeting with increasing success. In February 1975 XINHUA touted one of these supposed successes: Nangong county, located in Hebei province, had reportedly seen its population growth rate drop by 74% in the two years since the policy had been implemented in 1973. “Wherever you go [in the county],” the official news agency boasted, “you can hear people saying ‘Planned Birth is good.’” The policy had become “deeply embedded in the hearts of the people throughout the county,” making Nangong a “model” for other counties to emulate.

In spite of the fact that, according to Party propagandists, the enthusiasm of the masses over this new policy knew no bounds, local radio broadcasts from this time suggest that there was considerable resistance both from cadres and locals in large parts of the country. Why else would these broadcasts urge local cadres to “strengthen leadership” over the work, grasp it “firmly and well,” “mobilize the masses,” and make the Planned Birth campaign a top priority? Why else would they need to “grasp the class struggle” and the struggle between the “two lines” (revolutionary and reactionary) in order to “enhance the spontaneity” of the cadres and the masses? Above all, why else would they be told that they must “consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat,” an ominous phrase which meant that that they were now free to use the mailed fist of state power to crush any and all opposition to the Planned Birth policy of the Party? Still, as some reports noted, the “fierce struggle between the two classes” in planned birth work continued, and “sabotage” by class enemies remained a problem. All localities reported “successes” in the efforts to implement the policy—they could hardly do otherwise—but not a few admitted that, despite their “successes,” the work was “uneven” and they had been unable to meet the “demands” (i.e., targets and quotas) laid out by the Party.

The Planned Birth campaign rhetoric of the early 1970s reflected the harsh, aggressive tone of the Cultural Revolution, a time when every statement of the authorities was freighted with ideological overtones, and every act charged with political menace. This was a time when Lin Biao, Vice Chairman of the CCP and Chairman Mao’s designated successor, attempted to flee Mao’s wrath but died when the plane he had commandeered crashed in Outer Mongolia. It was a time when Mao’s third wife, Jiang Qing, an ambitious woman who had arrogated more and more power to herself as Mao slipped into his dotage, made the planned birth policy a centerpiece of the continuing Cultural Revolution.

Lin Biao’s name was quickly added to the political invective of the day. Along with his fellow “counterrevolutionary” Liu Shaoqi, and the long-dead “reactionaries” Confucius and Mencius, Lin was accused of having “sabotaged” the Planned Birth campaign. Every provincial, county, and commune-level cadre in China was ordered to help expose his “towering crimes” against the campaign and publicly criticize him. Since there was absolutely no evidence that he did any such thing, the already strident Planned Birth propaganda of the time now began to read like the paranoid ravings of a mad political zealot:

We must seriously organize the masses to study the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, implement and propagate Chairman Mao's instructions and the Party's policy on Planned Birth and grasp well the struggle between two lines and two kinds of ideology on Planned Birth work. We must criticize the reactionary fallacies on the question of family, marriage, and childbearing preached by Liu Shaoqi, Lin Biao, and Confucius and Mencius. . . We must eradicate their poison. We must enhance the masses' spontaneity for practicing late marriage and Planned Birth. We must train a large number of activists in planned birth work and give full play to the backbone and vanguard role of revolutionary cadres, Party members, China Youth League members, and militia-men.

In other words, all of the organizations controlled by the Party-State were to be enlisted into the struggle to impose the Planned Birth policy on "the masses." And "the masses" were going to like it—"spontaneously" of course—or else. Or again:

To practice Planned Birth is a profound revolution in the ideological sphere. To carry out this ideological revolution for 'getting rid of the old and establishing the new' and 'changing existing habits and customs,' we must thoroughly break away from the traditional relations of ownership [of children], the traditional concepts, and eradicate the old ideas and habits on the issue of marriage and parenthood left behind over the past several thousand years. Therefore, to make a success of Planned Birth work is an important aspect of consolidating and developing the victorious achievements of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. The remnant poison of the reactionary fallacies spread by Confucius and Mencius. . . is very extensive and their influence is extremely deep. Bourgeois rights also are reflected in the issues of marriage and parenthood. The class enemies also try by every way possible to carry out sabotage. Therefore, in order to institute Planned Birth, we must also take the class struggle as the key link, persist in the Party's basic line, seriously study the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, persist in exercising all-around proletarian dictatorship over the bourgeoisie, firmly grasp the struggle between two classes, two lines, and two kinds of ideology in marriage and parenthood, develop revolutionary mass criticism deeply and protractedly, criticize thoroughly the reactionary fallacies advocated by Liu Shaoqi, Lin Biao, Confucius, and Mencius on the issue of the family, marriage, and parenthood, and eradicate their remnant poison.

In Junan Commune, located in the Pearl River Delta of Guangdong province, where I did my original field research in China, these were the years in which virtually every women of childbearing age with three or more living children was either inserted with an IUD, or given a tubal ligation. Interviews with local women who had been sterilized under duress convinced me that local cadres had followed their orders to the letter. They had indeed "firmly grasped the struggle between the two lines" and ensured that "the dictatorship of the proletariat" had carried the day. The "reactionary fallacy" that couples could have as many children as they wanted was in retreat, replaced by the new Party line: the Chinese Communist Party, and the state apparatus that it controlled, would henceforth be in charge of regulating births under a state plan.

#### CHILDBEARING UNDER A STATE PLAN WILL CONTINUE

This is why the shift to a two-child policy is occurring as part of the next five-year plan, approved at the latest meeting of the CCP Central Committee. The official communique about the meeting, released by China's official Xinhua News Agency on October 29th, made clear that in the 13th Five-Year Economic Plan, China's leaders had decided to ramp up both production *and* reproduction.

The communique itself, written in the almost unreadable pastiche of slogans that the Party resorts to on such occasions, read: "Promote the balanced development of the population; resolutely carry out the basic policy of Planned Births; thoroughly implement the policy of each couple birthing two children; actively begin to address the aging of the population."

Of course it is already far too late to "rebalance" the population in order to stop the rapid "aging of the population." Those trends are already baked into the demographic cake, as it were. No spike in planned births, however robust, is going to offset the hundreds of millions of "planned" deaths that preceded it.

Moreover, it is doubtful whether the new policy will have much of an impact at all. When the one-child policy has been relaxed in the past—first for rural couples whose first child was a girl, then for all rural couples, then for urban couples where both the husband and wife were only children—the results have been underwhelming.

The last tweaking of the Planned Birth policy, which occurred just two years ago, was particularly disappointing to Party leaders hoping for a baby boomlet. The government had “announced” that couples in which only one spouse was an only child would be allowed two children, and planned for 20 million births in 2014. Only 16.9 million babies actually materialized. And out of 11 million couples eligible to have a second child, only 1.45 million had applied for a “permit” by May of this year.

These figures suggest that, at least among China’s urban population, millions of couples are not eagerly waiting to fill the maternity wards. Forty years of anti-natal, anti-child propaganda has left its mark on the Chinese psyche. Few Chinese young people, who are themselves only children (and often the children of only children), are inclined to be generous when it comes to having children of their own. They would rather spend their limited incomes on themselves than, say, disposable diapers.

The Chinese are not alone in having below-replacement fertility. Every developed Asian country, from Japan and South Korea, to Taiwan and Singapore, is suffering from the same demographic malaise. The difference is that these countries grew rich before they began growing old. China, as a result of its misguided one-child policy, is growing old before it is rich.

What will the China’s leaders do if, as now appears likely, the Chinese people do not procreate up to plan?

At present couples are *permitted* to have a second child, but I don’t expect the matter to end there. Soon they will be “encouraged,” then “motivated” and finally “ordered” to bear children. A government bent on regulating its population under a state plan will do whatever necessary to “produce” the number of children it has ordered reproduced.

If this prediction sounds, well, a little overwrought, consider what China has been doing to young, pregnant mothers for the better part of two generations now.

At the outset of the one-child policy, Paramount Leader Deng Xiaoping ordered his officials to “Use whatever means you must” to force the birthrate down. “With the support of the Communist Party, you have nothing to fear,” he assured them. They took him at his word, and women were rounded up *en masse* to be aborted, sterilized, or contracepted.

Even today, these kinds of abuses continue. As recently as two months ago, a mother was forced to sacrifice the life of her unborn child to save her husband’s job. She was eight months pregnant. Not long before, a Shaanxi woman was taken by force from her home by a gang of Planned Birth officials and given an abortion. She was seven months pregnant, according to reports from the Guardian.

The same Party officials who have been responsible for decades of forced abortions and sterilizations would presumably have no qualms enforcing mandatory pregnancy on young women, if they were ordered to do so.

An example of just this kind of coercive pro-natal policy comes from neighboring North Korea, one of the most rigidly controlled countries on earth. Dictator Kim Jong-un, worried about the country’s falling birth rate, has just ordered ob-gyns to stop inserting IUDs, and has declared that abortion will henceforth be illegal.

If the higher birthrate called for by China’s new Planned Birth policy can not be achieved voluntarily, China’s leaders may take similar actions. Childbearing may become mandatory. Regular pelvic examinations will be instituted to monitor menstrual cycles and plan pregnancies. Abortion may be forbidden. Such measures, long in place in China to restrict childbearing, may be instituted to increase the number of children born.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. China’s leaders should abandon the Planned Birth policy altogether. They should allow couples to freely choose the number and spacing of their children, and have as many, or as few, as they desire.

2. China’s leaders should respect the consensus of the international community as expressed in the policy of the UN Population Fund, which affirms that couples enjoy the right to responsibly decide the number and spacing of their children.

3. The **National Health and Planned Birth Commission (NHPBC)**, created in 2013 from the merger of the Ministry of Health and the National Population and Planned Birth Commission, should revert to its former role as a Ministry of Health, and its Planned Birth arm abolished.

4. Only if these reforms are undertaken will forced abortions and forced sterilizations, which have characterized China’s Planned Birth policy from the beginning, come to an end.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. CHRISTOPHER SMITH, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM  
NEW JERSEY; CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA

DECEMBER 3, 2015

The Chinese government has spent the past 35 years telling couples what their families must look like.

Thirty-five years of state sponsored violence against women including coerced abortions and involuntary sterilizations in the name of population control.

Thirty-five years of viewing children as “excess baggage” from the day they are conceived, particularly the girl child.

Thirty-five years of wasting precious human potential.

And, thirty-five years of committing massive crimes against women and children enabled by pro-abortion non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Despite the platitude and applause by some being heaped on China’s announced “Two-Child Policy”—the proposal doesn’t change the basic structure of coercive population control and it is not some major reversal of policy to be lauded. And this so called reform isn’t a done deal yet. According to world famous demographer Dr. Nicholas Eberstadt, who will testify today, the “One-Child Policy” may become a “Two-Child Policy” but the coercive population control apparatus remains unchanged.

Dr. Eberstadt says, “To be clear: that shift has not yet taken place. To the contrary: just days after the October 29 announcement, China’s National Health and Family Planning Commission, which oversees the population program, emphasized that the new norms were not yet “valid” and described the Two-Child Policy as a “proposal,” indicating furthermore that this proposal would have to be approved by Beijing’s legislature next year before it might eventually be enacted.”

That said, the “Two-Child Policy” may allow for more births—if “enacted” at some future date—but it does not remove the pernicious incentives given to local officials to pressure or even force mothers to abort a child if the birth hasn’t been approved by the state and is/or is the couple’s third. Chinese families are still not free to determine the size of their own families. Nor does this policy erase the enormous physical and psychological damage imposed on women done by three and a half decades of highly coercive birth limitations.

We should not be applauding China’s policy, we should be insisting they abolish all birth limits—forever.

Chen Guangcheng, the famous Chinese legal advocate, and human rights champion, calls China’s population control policies “genocide.” He calls for an international tribunal to vigorously investigate these crimes against humanity. And Mr. Chen calls on the Obama Administration to enforce existing U.S. law and bar Chinese officials associated with the policy from entry to the United States—I wrote that law, and the Obama Administration has completely failed to enforce and implement its provisions.

The Chinese government is not the only one culpable in these heinous crimes against women and children. The UN Population Fund helped fund birth restrictions, fund forced abortions, and a massive and coercive family planning bureaucracy. Several years ago, I had a face to face meeting in Beijing with Peng Peiyun, the bureaucrat in charge of China’s draconian population program. Madame Peng repeatedly told me repeatedly that my concerns were unfounded and repeatedly said that UNFPA found no coercion whatsoever—a complete whitewash.

The UNFPA whitewashed China’s crimes for decades and continues to do so today. On their website, the UNFPA justifies its history in China, saying that they “were tasked by the Executive Committee” to help China and had to “engage with China as a sovereign nation.”

Since 1994, the UNFPA claims that their efforts have focused on getting China to adopt a “rights-based approach” to family planning, saying they opposed “coercion, violence, forced abortion, and sterilization as a violation of basic human rights.”

Yet, there is no evidence to show their efforts made one bit of difference in changing China’s policies. No evidence that UNFPA officials intervened to stop coercion and violence. For the past three and half decades, UNFPA funding gave China’s policies an international stamp of approval.

The UNFPA is complicit in China’s coercive population control policies. The United States and others who helped fund the UNFPA programs in China are also complicit. It is a dark and bloody stain that cannot be washed away.

I hope China will abolish all aspects of its horrendous birth control policy as soon as possible and compensate its victims. For me and many others opposed to this pol-

icy, it is a matter of justice and human rights. For the Chinese government, this is a matter of economic survival.

China's government says it is instituting a "Two-Child Policy" to stem the twin demographic time bombs of a rapidly aging population and millions of men unable to find wives, but this new policy is unlikely to solve these problems.

As the Economist has noted, by 2025, nearly 1 in 4 Chinese citizens will be over the age of 60. At the same time, China's working-age population has shrunk in each of the past three years. These factors are likely to hurt not only government balance sheets but also economic growth in China. This should be of particular concern to the Chinese Communist Party, as economic growth is the primary source of their ill begotten legitimacy.

The minimal policy change announced in October will do little to address the three decade decimation of female population. Approximately 40 million women and girls—perhaps millions more—are missing from the population—a policy that can only be accurately described as gendercide. The extermination of the girl child in society simply because she happens to be a girl.

The lack of girls has led to a dramatically skewed gender ratio. An estimated 30 million young men who will be unable to find wives in the coming decades.

The Chinese government should be concerned—as should China's neighbors and the international community—of the consequences of 30 million men, unable to find companionship, unable to start families, and coming of age precisely at the time that China's economy is creating fewer jobs to employ them. That is a ticking time bomb with the potential of dramatic consequences.

We continue to see increased human trafficking for forced marriages and sexual slavery. NGOs working in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Burma have all reported an increase in trafficking of women and girls into China in recent years. Even if China ends its birth restrictions, given the current demographics, this problem of a shortage of women in China will only get worse in the coming decade.

In the long line of Chinese Communist Party mistakes, the brutal enforcement of population control may be one of the deadliest and most hated. The "Two-Child Policy" recently announced does little to fundamentally change the past and should not be celebrated.

The international community, led by the United States, must insist that China abolish all birth restrictions, dismantle its family planning apparatus, compensate the victims of forced abortions and sterilizations, raise the legal and inheritance status of girls, and permanently close a dark and deadly chapter in Chinese history.

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PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. MARCO RUBIO, A U.S. SENATOR FROM FLORIDA;  
COCHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA

DECEMBER 3, 2015

For over three decades, China's barbaric One-Child Policy condemned millions of unwanted or "surplus" Chinese girls to abortion, infanticide, abandonment and human trafficking.

Following China's recent announcement that it is adopting a universal two-child policy, media reports profiled individual Chinese families and the trauma they've experienced at the hands of their own government: women still grieving the child they were robbed of, parents adrift after losing the only child the government allowed them to have, families who are too old to take advantage of this policy change. Sadly, these types of stories will continue under the new policy.

Ultimately, China's new two-child policy is as indefensible and inhumane as the one-child policy it replaces. In fact, China's new policy should be known as the "forced abortion of child #3" policy. China needs to recognize that its problem isn't that it has too many innocent children; it's that they have too many repressive communist adults with blood all over their clenched iron fists.

It would be a mistake to assume this change in any way reflects a newfound respect for human rights by Beijing. It is still a population control policy and still, at its heart, repressive. When couples conceive a third child, the Chinese government will force them to eliminate him or her, by any means necessary. There are also doubts about those second children conceived in the months between the policy announcement and its ultimate implementation at the provincial level. China's vast population control apparatus will continue to exist. Birth permits will still be required. And second children, already born in violation of the previous policy will continue to face tremendous challenges—denied the most basic rights of Chinese citizenship.

A government that possesses such little regard for its own people—parents and children alike – cannot be relied upon to adhere to other international norms.

This is China's shameful legacy. According to the latest census, men outnumber women by at least 33 million. Estimates suggest that there will be a surplus of 40–50 million bachelors in China through the mid-to late 21st century.

Couples who have violated the one-child policy have historically faced a variety of punishments, from fines and the loss of employment to forced abortions and sterilizations. The Annual Report of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC), which I co-chair, noted that last year local governments directed officials to punish non-compliance with the one-child policy with heavy fines termed “social compensation fees,” which compel many couples to choose between undergoing an unwanted abortion and incurring a fine much greater than the average annual income of the locality. This is a “choice” no parent should have to make.

Today, I joined with CECC Chairman, Representative Chris Smith in urging Secretary of State John Kerry to provide an update on the administration's implementation of the “Girls Count Act”, which was signed into law on June 12. As this law's chief sponsor in the Senate, I was motivated by the fact that every year approximately 51 million children under the age of five are not registered at birth, most of whom are girls, leaving them susceptible to marginalization and exploitation. This law directs current U.S. foreign assistance programming to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries by working to establish birth registries in their countries. There is a massive problem regarding children for whom no official records exist because they were not registered at birth—this is, of course, especially true in China. The legislation also prioritizes a variety of rule of law programs intended to raise the legal and financial status of girls in order to help address the cultural and financial rationale for sex-selective abortions. Again, this component has particular relevance to China.

As a father of four, I believe it is vital that the United States continues advocating for the complete elimination of government-forced population planning as well as the fundamental rights of all Chinese citizens, including the unborn, to live up to their God-given potential. The One-Child Policy does not need to be changed; it needs to be eliminated entirely. Ultimately, I believe the unborn children we are fighting for will form a new generation of Chinese children who will lead its transition to a peaceful and democratic nation. China's children—all of them—represent the country's best hopes for the future, not the fading crony communists fighting to eliminate them.

## SUBMISSIONS FOR THE RECORD

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 HOW MANY “MISSING FEMALES” FOR CHINA’S ONE CHILD POLICY ERA (1981–2015)?

SOME APPROXIMATE ILLUSTRATIVE CALCULATIONS

NICHOLAS EBERSTADT

HENRY HENDY CHAIR IN POLITICAL ECONOMY

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

eberstadt@aei.org

In this note we offer a few simple illustrative calculations that should help to bound the range of plausible estimates for the size of the population of “missing girls and women” from the cohorts born during the One Child Policy era in China (1980–2015).

The emphasis is on ‘simple’ here—what we show below are a few benchmark calculations.

A more sophisticated set of estimates could be derived from formal, and more methodologically sophisticated, demographic projections. We offer simpler calculations here because the additional value from a more elegant set of projections is not self-evident, given the magnitudes of the uncertainties in officially reported Chinese data.

In a world with perfect information, we could provide an approximate estimate of the total “missing females” from the One Child Policy era as a differential—the sum total of the gap between the number of girls and women actually enumerated on the one hand, and the “expected” number of girls and women we would predict to be counted under “normal” conditions on the other. Note that there are assumptions—about the “normal” sex ratio at birth and “normal” mortality trends for the groups in question, among other things—in such calculations, and they affect the results even under conditions of perfect information. But the effect on results would be relatively small: such differences would matter a lot to demographers, of course, but they probably would not really matter that much to people who simply wanted a “ball park” approximation of the magnitude of this problem.

For better or worse, Chinese demographic data today are far from perfect. Vital registration of births and deaths is not yet complete or even near-complete.<sup>1</sup> China’s most recent national population count was conducted in 2010, and as with earlier Chinese censuses in the One Child Era, an under-counting of children and youth appears to have taken place. This should not be surprising: in addition to the perennial potential for undercounts that besets all census exercises, Beijing has created special additional incentives for misrepresenting the numbers of children and youth to enumerators. Parents might wish to hide their true number of children because they had an “out of quota” birth, for example, or because they wanted another chance for a son. Young adults could be invisible to enumerators if they began life as “hidden children” and were never assigned *hukou* registration and identification papers. No one knows just how many Chinese today exist outside the state’s *hukou* registration system, but recently authorities in Beijing indicated they believed China’s non-*hukou* population might total 13 million persons.<sup>2</sup>

Rather than base our estimate of missing females on official Chinese demographic as reported, we will work instead with the reconstructions and projections offered by independent demographic experts. The two foremost sources for such work are the US Bureau of the Census, through its continually updated International Data Base,<sup>3</sup> and the United Nations Population Division, through its typically biennial “World Population Prospects” series.<sup>4</sup> Both of these teams released their latest esti-

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<sup>1</sup> Shiwei Liu *et al.*, “An integrated national mortality surveillance system for death registration and mortality surveillance, China.” World Health Organization 94, no. 28 (2016): 46–57, [www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/1/15-153148.pdf](http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/1/15-153148.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Yining Peng, “13m unregistered people to be given *hukou* recognition,” China Daily, November 25, 2015, <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-11/25/content-22516606.htm>

<sup>3</sup> United States Census Bureau, International Data Base, “Mid-year population by single year age groups,” available at: <http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/idb/informationGateway.php>

<sup>4</sup> Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/>



mates and projections for China in the summer of 2015, so we are working here with fairly up-to-date assessments of China's demographic profile.

The Census Bureau and the UN Population Division reconstructions of China's 2010 population profile can be contrasted with China's officially released 2010 census returns. [SEE TABLES 1 AND 2] By convention, the Census Bureau and UN Population Division estimates are for midyear (July 1); for its part, China's 2010 census used November 1 as its "hour zero." All other things being equal, this should mean that the totals from the official Chinese count would be a little *higher* than the Census Bureau and UN Population Division estimates, due to intervening population growth. But as we can see, both the Census Bureau estimates and the UN Population Division estimates conclude there was a substantial undercounting of China's younger population in 2010. By the Census Bureau's reconstructions, the Chinese 2010 census undercounted the country's under-30 population (i.e., the persons born since 1980) by almost 24 million—over 15 million males and over 8 million females. By the UN Population Division's reckoning, the undercount would have been over 20 million: more than 13 million males and nearly 7 million females. The Census Bureau and UNPD reconstructions both conclude that the degree of undercount varied not only by sex, but also by year of birth—but they do not agree entirely amongst themselves on the extent of under-enumeration by age and sex for China's younger population. These two reconstructions thus reflect somewhat different sets of expert assumptions about China's true fertility and mortality patterns.

The One Child Policy Era was formally inaugurated in September 1980, with an open letter by the Central Committee of Chinese Communist Party in *People's Daily*. In October 2015, a statement from the Central Committee via *Xinhua* News Agency announced that the One Child Policy would be shelved. For the purposes of our calculations, we treat the One Child Policy Era as 1980–2015 (even though it would of course be possible to date the policy as beginning somewhat earlier, and also extending later—after all, the nationwide termination of the policy thus far has only been announced, not actually implemented).

In their population projections for 2015 for China, both the Census Bureau and the UN Population Division estimate the total male population from birthyears 1980–2015 at a bit over 352 million, and both place the total female population from birthyears 1980–2015 a little above 316 million. These aggregates are strikingly similar (though if we were to dig a little deeper we would see some discrepancies in the projections for each birthyear).

Both series indicate a gap of about 36 million between males and females born during the One Child Policy era. Some of this difference, however, can be considered natural, insofar as our species is biologically programmed to produce slightly more male than female offspring. How much of this gap is "normal", and how much should be regarded as "missing females"?

We can illustrate a plausible range of rough approximations for total numbers of "missing females" from the 1980–2015 birth cohorts with three scenarios, applied to both the Census Bureau and the UN Population Division projections: 1) the sex ratio in China should be 105 males per 100 females for ages 0 through 35; 2) the sex ratio should be 103 males per 100 females for ages 0 through 35; and 3) the sex ratio in China should be 105 males for every 100 females at age 0 (i.e. for the group that has not yet reached its first birthday) but should gradually decline to 103 males per 100 females at age 35.

These scenarios are perforce arbitrary, but they are not entirely unreasonable. In China's 1953 and 1964 censuses—the national population counts, that is to say, before the dawn of the One Child Policy—the enumerated sex ratios for China's babies less than one year of age were 104.9 and 103.8, respectively<sup>5</sup>—i.e., they fell between 103 and 105 for age group 0.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup>Thomas Scharping, Table 32 in *Birth Control in China 1949–2000: Population policy and demographic development* (New York: Routledge, 2013).

<sup>6</sup>A technical demographic point: the sex ratio at birth and the sex ratio of babies less than one year of age are not identical quantities because infant mortality rates may differ by sex and usually do, typically being higher for boys than girls. China did not report sex ratios at birth in its 1953 and 1964 census counts and we do not deal with SRBs in this note, as sex ratios for each age group afford us the simple approach we use in this note.

A second and somewhat more technical point concerns the possible relationship between mortality levels and age 0 sex ratio in a hypothetically "normal" China. In 1953 and 1964, when China's first two censuses were conducted, China was a high mortality society—but mortality levels were much lower in the China of the One Child Policy era. Some might surmise that improvements in mortality might affect China's sex ratio at age 0 and take the society outside of the range of sex ratios we have stipulated here. While recognizing this theoretical possibility, we do not attempt to deal with such counterfactuals in this note.

If we believed survival schedules for males and females were the same from 0 through 35, and that differential migration played no role in shaping China's sex ratios (as we will indeed assume throughout this exercise), then boundaries for the size of the "missing females" group might be established by calculating how many babies, girls and women should be expected at a sex ratio of 103 or 105, given the number of males estimated from each birthyear, subtracting the actually estimated number of females in question, and summing the differences for all birthyears in question.

These were the assumptions for scenarios 1 and 2. But of course in almost all contemporary populations, women can expect to live longer than men—and in most societies today female survival schedules are more favorable than male schedules for the 0–35 period.

Scenario 3 is an effort to take into account the reality of male-female differentials in mortality. We can get a sense of the magnitude of the relevant differentials from the Human Mortality Database<sup>7</sup> estimates of mortality patterns for Taiwan in the year 1980—i.e., for a culturally Chinese population before the dawn of sex-selective abortion, and where severe discrimination against girls and women was not in force. On survival trajectories from that year, 96.7% of Taiwanese females could expect to live to age 35—as against 94.5% of Taiwanese men. Differential mortality, in other words, would have reduced the sex ratio by a bit more than two percentage points by age 35. (China's overall life expectancy at birth today is believed to be a few years higher than was Taiwan's in 1980 but we may still want to use this two percentage point differential, not least for the sake of simplicity.) Consequently, our scenario 3 begins with a sex ratio of 105 males per 100 females at 0 and ends with a sex ratio of 103 males per 100 females at age 35, interpolating the sex ratio for intervening ages.

Table 3 displays the results of these calculations. [SEE TABLE 3] Under scenario 1 (a sex ratio of 105 at all ages), we would calculate the "missing female" total for the One Child Policy era to amount to around 19–20 million. Under scenario 2 (a sex ratio of 103 at all ages) the "missing female" total would be calculated at around 26 million. Under scenario 3 (a sex ratio of 105 for those not year one year of age, gradually shifting to 103 by age 35), the "missing female" total would be calculated at around 23 million.

Our central estimate for the number of "missing females" from the One Child Policy era (1980–2015) is thus around 23 million—although, as we have just seen, alternative assumptions could result in estimates a few million higher or a few million lower. More detailed and sophisticated approaches might of course propose more precise numerical answers to the question in the title of this note—but given the significant uncertainties inherent in the Chinese data upon which such approaches would have to rely, the risk of false precision would be high.

By way of perspective on our calculations: our figures would be roughly in the same league as the total population for Taiwan (23.5 million as of July 2015, according to the Republic of China Statistical Bureau).<sup>8</sup>

Finally: note that our calculations scale the dimensions of the "missing women" problem in relation to "existing men". We have no way of knowing just how many additional males would have been born in China over the past three and a half decades absent population control. This is arguably an additional aspect to the "missing women" question—but one we have no readily reliable method for addressing.

<sup>7</sup>Human Mortality Database, University of California, Berkeley and Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Taiwan Data Series, <http://www.mortality.org/cgi-bin/hmd/country.php?cntr=TWN&level=1>

<sup>8</sup>Statistical Bureau of the Republic of China (Taiwan), "Latest Indicators," <http://eng.stat.gov.tw/point.asp?index=9>.

**TABLE 1**  
**Comparing Official**  
**Chinese Census**  
**figures to US Census**  
**Bureau and UNPD**  
**reconstructions:**  
**Absolute population**  
**difference by age,**  
**2010**

<b>US Census Bureau</b>		
Age	Male total differences	Female total differences
0 to 4	1,199,882	1,347,373
5 to 9	2,212,245	1,998,021
10 to 14	6,497,177	5,605,688
15 to 19	2,695,887	921,662
20 to 24	1,564,303	-623,850
25 to 29	1,122,852	-996,448
Total:	15,292,346	8,252,446

<b>UNPD</b>		
Age	Male total differences	Female total differences
0 to 4	1,401,700	1,912,550
5 to 9	1,977,260	2,585,005
10 to 14	1,843,644	2,485,656
15 to 19	4,296,776	2,531,369
20 to 24	3,413,005	-1,007,482
25 to 29	576,344	-1,563,241
Total:	13,508,729	6,943,857

Sources: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*, <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/index.htm>, accessed on September 10, 2015; United States Census Bureau, International Data Base, "Mid-year population by single year age groups," available at: <http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/db/informationGateway.php>, accessed on September 10, 2015; Department of Population and Employment Statistics National Bureau of Statistics, "China Population Census: Tabulation of the 2010 Population Census of the People's Republic of China" (Beijing: China Statistics Press, 2012).

**TABLE 2**  
**Comparing Chinese**  
**Census figures to**  
**US Census Bureau**  
**and UNPD**  
**reconstructions:**  
**Percentage**  
**population**  
**difference by age,**  
**2010**

US Census Bureau		
Age	Male Percent differences	Female Percent differences
0 to 4	2.9%	3.9%
5 to 9	5.8%	6.2%
10 to 14	16.1%	16.2%
15 to 19	5.2%	1.9%
20 to 24	2.4%	-1.0%
25 to 29	2.2%	-2.0%

UNPD		
Age	Male Percent differences	Female Percent differences
0 to 4	3.4%	5.5%
5 to 9	5.1%	8.0%
10 to 14	4.6%	7.2%
15 to 19	8.3%	5.3%
20 to 24	5.3%	-1.6%
25 to 29	1.1%	-3.1%

Sources: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*, <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/index.htm>, accessed on September 10, 2015; United States Census Bureau, International Data Base, "Mid-year population by single year age groups," available at: <http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/idb/informationGateway.php>, accessed on September 10, 2015; Department of Population and Employment Statistics National Bureau of Statistics, "China Population Census: Tabulation of the 2010 Population Census of the People's Republic of China" (Beijing: China Statistics Press, 2012).

**TABLE 3**  
**Estimates for China’s “missing females” during the One Child Policy Era, birth years 1980-2015 (estimates for China for 2015, rounded to nearest million)**

	US Census	UNPD
Scenario 1	-19	-20
Scenario 2	-26	-26
Scenario 3	-23	-23

Note: Scenario 1 assumes the sex ratio for all ages 0-35 should be 105 males per 100 females; Scenario 2 assumes the sex ratio for all ages 0-35 should be 103 males per 100 females; Scenario 3 assumes the sex ratio should be 105 males per 100 females for infants under one year of age (i.e. age 0) and gradually decline to 103 males per 100 females at age 35.  
Sources: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*, <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/index.htm>, accessed on January 10, 2016; United States Census Bureau, International Data Base, "Mid-year population by single year age groups," available at: <http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/idb/informationGateway.php>, accessed on January 10, 2016.

[From the Wall Street Journal, October 29, 2015]

## CHINA'S NEW TWO-CHILD POLICY AND THE FATAL CONCEIT

(By Nicholas Eberstadt)

It is the latest twist in the most ambitious and ruthless social-engineering program ever undertaken by a modern state: Beijing announced Thursday that the Chinese Communist Party will officially abandon its one-child policy. Yet it has no plans to relinquish authority over its subjects' birth patterns; rather, Beijing has simply changed the ration. Now two children per family will be permitted.

The first partial relaxation came two years ago, when Chinese authorities decreed that spouses who were both an only child would be allowed to have two children. This fine-tuning was expected to result in several million additional births—but only a fraction of that number of couples even applied for a second ration coupon. Now, after 3½ decades of attempted one-child enforcement, the government can no longer ignore that its policy of forcible population control has been a disaster. As the Communist Party prepares for its 13th five-year plan, it must survey what its quest to remold the Chinese family has wrought.

The one-child mandate is the single greatest social-policy error in human history. After Mao Zedong's death in 1976, his legatees were horrified to discover how little they had inherited. Despite almost three decades of "socialist construction," China was still overwhelmingly rural and desperately poor. More than 97% of the country lived below the World Bank's notional \$1.25 a day threshold for absolute poverty, according to recent Chinese estimates. With a population still rapidly growing, China seemed on the brink of losing the race between mouths and food.

In their attempt to process these facts, Chinese leaders stumbled into an elementary neo-Malthusian misdiagnosis. Rather than focus solely on undoing the crushing inefficiencies of their Maoist economy, they blamed abysmal productivity on the childbearing patterns of their subjects. The outcome was involuntary birth control, promulgated through a vast scheme of quotas and an army of family-planning agents.

This was Socialist "scientism"—ideology masquerading as science—of the highest order. The broad outline was established on calculations by a Moscow-minted engineer in China's nuclear program. These computations bore no relation to the actual ways in which Chinese men and women thought about family life. As soon as the policy was rolled out in 1980 and 1981, it collided with human realities.

First came alarming reports that female infanticide, an ancient practice, had once again erupted throughout the countryside. China's 1982 census, released some years later, showed an unnatural imbalance in the sex ratio for birth-year 1981 on the order of hundreds of thousands of missing baby girls.

Infanticide was then replaced by mass sex-selective abortion, made possible in the late 1980s by increased rural access to ultrasound machines. China's sex ratio climbed to nearly 120 baby boys for every 100 baby girls, where it plateaued around 2000. Although a war against baby girls is evident in other countries—India and Taiwan among them—leading Chinese demographers have suggested that half or more of China's imbalance may directly result from the one-child policy.

The precise long-term effects have yet to be accurately estimated. Chinese authorities claim that the country has 400 million fewer people due to the one-child policy, because they have overseen that many abortions. But this misleading metric ignores the distinction between forced and voluntary abortions.

To the extent that the policy *has* achieved its objective, it magnified the demographic problems that Communist planners are apparently only now beginning to acknowledge. Fertility levels in urban China were already well below replacement by 1980. Today the country is on track to go gray at a shocking tempo. Two years ago, working-age manpower began to decline, according to Chinese authorities. The only close comparator is post-bubble Japan: not a cheering vision for what remains a relatively poor society.

And China's cities are now producing a new family type utterly unfamiliar to Chinese history: only children begotten by only children. They have no siblings, cousins, uncles or aunts, only ancestors (and perhaps, one day, descendants). But in a low-trust society, extended social networks, known in Chinese as *guanxi*, play a vital economic role. They reduce uncertainty and transaction costs by providing the reassurance supplied elsewhere by rule of law and transparency. How will Chinese economic performance be affected by the atrophy of the extended family?

Beijing's latest adjustments to population plans seem to have been prompted by economic concerns, yet these changes will have only modest demographic repercussions. Like other East Asian locales without forced population control, the average desired family size in China appears to be far below replacement. Beijing also can't

rely on immigration for demographic help. Even modest gains from the new policy will take decades to have an economic impact.

Contemporary China has a host of top-flight demographers and population economists—and so far as I can tell, almost all are critics of their country’s population program. Some are concerned with human-rights violations; most pragmatically regard the one-child policy as painfully, obviously counterproductive. A number of these experts wrote a letter to the State Council a decade ago urging “reconsideration” (translation: complete scrapping) of the one-child norm—to no effect.

Why has Beijing stubbornly ignored the advice of its own top talent? My baffled Chinese colleagues speculate on possible explanations: the difficulty of re-tasking the vast army of population-control bureaucrats; the value of the hefty fines exacted for out-of-quota births; the neo-Malthusian ideology to which China’s bosses still seem to be slave.

All of these are plausible, but they overlook a key piece: the Chinese government’s undying claim to totalitarian control over the most basic details of its subjects’ lives, revealed as well by the retrograde *hukou* system of residence permits that makes urban China’s migrant workers illegal aliens in their own country. For all the talk of “reforming”—and we have been hearing it overseas for almost two decades now—the Chinese government has been unwilling to dispense with these instruments of social control precisely because they are instruments of social control.

The “fatal conceit” (to borrow Friedrich Hayek’s term) of China’s population planners was that they could micro-calibrate the behavior of the men and women under their command. The new two-child policy suffers the same flaw. As long as Beijing deforms Chinese society with these misbegotten tools, the nation’s future will be compromised, poorer and sadder than it otherwise could be.

*Mr. Eberstadt is a political economist at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C.*

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“CHINA’S NEW ‘TWO-CHILD POLICY’ AND THE CONTINUATION OF MASSIVE CRIMES  
AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN”

DECEMBER 3, 2015

*Witnesses*

**Nicholas Eberstadt, Ph.D., Henry Wendt Scholar in Political Economy,  
American Enterprise Institute**

**Dr. Nicholas Eberstadt** is the Henry Wendt Scholar in Political Economy at the American Enterprise Institute. A political economist and demographer by training, he is a senior advisor to the National Bureau of Asian Research, and has served on the visiting committee at the Harvard School of Public Health, the Global Leadership Council at the World Economic Forum and the President’s Council on Bioethics. He has also served as a consultant to the World Bank, Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Bureau of the Census. With numerous publications on demographics in East Asia, Dr. Eberstadt received his Ph.D., M.P.A., and A.B. from Harvard University, and his M.Sc. from the London School of Economics.

**Reggie Littlejohn, Founder and President, Women’s Rights Without Frontiers**

**Ms. Reggie Littlejohn** is Founder and President of Women’s Rights Without Frontiers, a broad-based international coalition that opposes forced abortion and sexual slavery in China. Ms. Littlejohn is an acclaimed expert on China’s One-Child Policy, having testified six times before the U.S. Congress, three times before the European Parliament, and presented at the British, Irish, and Canadian Parliaments. She has briefed officials at the White House, Department of State, United Nations, and the Vatican. Her “Save a Girl” campaign has saved more than 150 baby girls from sex-selective abortion or grinding poverty in China. A graduate of Yale Law School, Ms. Littlejohn was named one of the “Top Ten” people of 2013 by *Inside the Vatican* magazine. She and her husband are raising as their own the two daughters of jailed pro-democracy dissident Zhang Lin.

**Jennifer Li, Co-Founder, China Life Alliance**

**Ms. Jennifer Li** lived in China for many years and is a co-founder of China Life Alliance, a network of individuals, churches, and ministries who seek to protect the lives of millions in China who are threatened by abortion, infanticide, abandonment, and trafficking. They do this by educating and mobilizing groups to rescue women

and save children through their safe house network, legal aid network, coerced-abortion rescue teams and a variety of other ways. As an American expatriate, wife, and mother who has raised her children in China, speaks Chinese, and has Chinese friends, Jennifer offers a unique perspective of the pressures that Chinese women face. Since 2001, Jennifer has been actively advocating for women and children and is a highly sought after speaker on the topic of women's rights and China's One Child Policy.

**Sarah Huang, Activist**

**Ms. Sarah Huang** has personally rescued more than 80 Chinese women and children threatened by abortion, infanticide, abandonment, and trafficking. Since 2013, international media has covered the efforts of Sarah, a humble pastor in China who has been nicknamed the "Mother Teresa of China," as she courageously assists vulnerable women who must hide their pregnancies to escape coercive abortions from Chinese family planning officials. Sarah has been working closely behind the scenes with China Life Alliance and has been pivotal in assisting numerous Chinese families, including a number of widely reported forced abortion cases that have been leaked into the international media. Sarah is currently pregnant with her second child and is now experiencing her own battle to save the life of her unborn child from a mandatory abortion.

**Steven W. Mosher, President of the Population Research Institute**

**Mr. Steven W. Mosher** is the President of the Population Research Institute (1995 to present) and has worked tirelessly since 1979 to fight coercive population control programs. He is an internationally recognized authority on China and population issues and an acclaimed author of a number of books, including "Population Control: Real Costs and Illusory Consequences" and the best-selling "A Mother's Ordeal: One Woman's Fight Against China's One-Child Policy." He served as the Director of the Asian Studies Center at the Claremont Institute from 1986–95 and was appointed in 1991 to serve as Commissioner of the U.S. Commission on Broadcasting to the PRC. He was educated at the University of Washington and Stanford University and, following a period of naval service (1968–76), in 1979 became the first American social scientist permitted to do field research in China since the Communist revolution.

