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# Remember Tiananmen Square

*Support the Global  
Petition Campaign*

Nearly ten years have passed since the Chinese government's brutal crackdown on the pro-democracy movement. Most of us will never forget the images sent around the world from Tiananmen Square: the goddess of democracy, with her torch held high; the thousands of peaceful demonstrators—students and workers—thronging the great square; the single young man facing a line of tanks. But we know that the ideals fueling the protest are yet to be realized—and, indeed, that government repression of men and



*(Above) the goddess of democracy facing a portrait of Mao Zedong. (Below) students and workers in Tiananmen Square.*



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women attempting to form political parties or organize free labor unions is more severe than ever. What can we do to help? One thing is to participate in the Global Petition Campaign.

Some leading Chinese dissidents, among them, Wang Dan, a student leader of the Tiananmen Square protest, are inviting people from every country to sign an Internet petition addressed to the Chinese government.

The petition calls on the government to free those still imprisoned as a result of the 1989 crackdown and all other "prisoners of conscience" and to extend, to all Chinese citizens, basic human rights, including freedom of expression, freedom of association, and freedom of religion. Wang Dan, who was released last year from prison in China and sent into exile, plans to present the petition to Jiang Zemin, president of the People's Republic of China on June 12.

AFT is one of the campaign's official sponsors, along with other labor organizations like the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions; the Canadian Labour Congress; and our sister union, the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union; as well as human rights organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. The petition, which was launched in January, now has signatories from more than 50 countries. We hear that even some brave people in mainland China are signing.

You can remember Tiananmen Square and the people who demonstrated for democracy by adding your name to the Global Petition ([www.june4.org](http://www.june4.org)). Or you can send an e-mail indicating your support ([petition@june4.org](mailto:petition@june4.org)).

Make sure Jiang Zemin and the other Chinese Communist leaders know that the world has not forgotten and that we call on them to give the people of China the basic rights they are still being denied.

*Sandra Yeldene*

President  
American Federation of Teachers



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