

Executive Summary

This collection combines reports that CHRD and several China-based NGOs submitted in March 2018 for the United Nations' third Universal Periodic Review of China. The reports provide assessments of whether and how the Chinese government has implemented other State parties' recommendations made to China during the 2nd UPR in 2013. The assessments cover recommendations concerning the government's cooperation with the United Nations human rights system, China's implementation of the promotion and protection of civil and political rights, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights, and China's efforts at promoting human rights education. The reports provide civil society organizations' research findings, analyses of systemic changes, and suggestions for the Chinese government, as well as helpful information for UN Member States to facilitate their meaningful participation in the 3rd UPR in November 2018.

Since China's 2nd UPR in 2013, the human rights situation in the country has rapidly deteriorated. In particular, authorities have systematically used enforced disappearances against human rights defenders, drastically reduced the space for civil society organizations to operate, jailed a large number of lawyers for defending their clients' legal rights, and committed gross and systematic rights abuses against the ethnic minorities and religious groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and the Tibetan Autonomous Region.

The compiled reports acknowledge limited positive steps in some areas. Among such developments are: reducing the number of crimes punishable by death, passing measures toward more inclusive educational opportunities for the disabled, adding new criminal and administrative penalties for violating environmental regulations, adopting an Anti-Domestic Violence Law, and taking some small steps to tackle unequal access to education. The overarching systemic problems in China that prevent the full realization of human rights in these areas are the lack of government accountability, independent judiciary, and freedom of expression, association, and assembly; as well as severe persecution of human rights defenders. The only area where the Chinese government has fully implemented a 2013 UPR recommendation was in abolishing the re-education through labor system, in 2013; however, the system has been replaced by other forms of extrajudicial administrative detention.

In preparation for these reports, NGOs based inside China conducted research, held discussions, and shared information for the assessments. Such individuals, due to their participation in the UPR process, have often faced aggressive persecution by the Chinese government. For example, human rights defender Cao Shunli, who led efforts in preparing non-government reports for the 2009 and 2013 rounds of UPR, was arrested, mistreated, and eventually died in custody in March 2014.

The Table in Annex 2 (page 124), presents our assessments of China's implementation of the 2nd UPR recommendations. Out of the total number of the 252 recommendations State parties made in 2013, we have determined that **236** are relevant, actionable, and measurable suggestions. Of these 236 recommendations, we find that the Chinese government has not implemented **188**, partially implemented **45**, and only implemented **3**.

We did not grade 16 recommendations because they were *inappropriate*; that is, they undermine the principle of universal human rights, under which the UPR operates, by recommending a perpetuation of or endorsement of human rights violations. Of the 236 recommendations, we also found that 55 recommendations were poorly phrased: they made vague suggestions for non-specific actions, or they were based on unsound, controversial, or false presuppositions, such that the recommended courses of action are confusing or misleading. In 2013, the Chinese government accepted 204 recommendations and did not accept 48.