

# pen

INTERNATIONAL

As writers, artists, musicians, filmmakers and others active in cultural pursuits, we are inspired and enriched by the works of colleagues beyond our borders. The strength of our work individually, and our cultures collectively, is the fruit of a free exchange of information and ideas with the creative community across the world.

Among our colleagues today are many creators and cultural figures in the People's Republic of China. We celebrate the growing international recognition of Chinese artists from all disciplines, a development exemplified by Mo Yan's 2012 Nobel Prize for Literature, and we welcome the ever-expanding avenues of cultural exchange.

We cannot, however, listen to China's great and emerging creative voices without hearing the silence of those whose voices are forcibly restrained. These include 2010 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Liu Xiaobo, who remains in prison; his wife, Liu Xia, who lives under house arrest; and more than forty other writers and journalists currently jailed for their work.

We cannot appreciate the accomplishments of Chinese creators across disciplines without thinking of the works we are not able to enjoy because of censorship in the arts, in the press, and on the Internet—or of the many other works that cannot be imagined or created because of these constraints. The impact of these restrictions is set out vividly in PEN International's May 2013 Report, *Creativity and Constraint in Today's China*.

Our plea to China's new leaders is simple. Respect and protect the right of our colleagues, and all of China's citizens, to freedom of expression. Respect and protect the right of Chinese citizens to a free and independent press. Respect and protect the right of writers to write, publishers to publish, and artists of all disciplines to create and present their work without fear of reprisal. Release all those unjustly imprisoned for exercising this most fundamental right.

Creativity is strength. Freeing China's creative voices will enrich us all.

Héctor Abad  
Claudio Aguilar

Gabrielle Alioth  
Edward Albee  
René Appel  
Anthony Appiah  
Antón Arrufat  
John Ashbery  
Margaret Atwood  
Paul Auster  
Russell Banks  
Ekbal Baraka  
Gioconda Belli  
Daniel Cil Bercher  
Susan Bernofsky  
Andrei Bitov  
Eduardo Blandon  
Marian Botsford Fraser  
Breyten Breytenbach  
Jutta Brimele  
Dror Burstein  
Lydia Cacho  
Sylvestre Clancier  
JM Coetzee  
Henri Cole  
Edwidge Danticat  
Aline Davidoff  
Don DeLillo  
Antonio Della Rocca  
Kiran Desai  
Lisa Dierbeck  
EL Doctorow  
Christopher Dominguez Michael  
Ariel Dorfman  
Tracey Emin  
Victor Erofeev  
Oskar Eustis  
Moris Farhi  
Anthony Fleischer  
Charles Foran  
David J. R. Frakt  
Ru Freeman  
Neil Gaiman  
Arthur Gawkwandi  
Juan Gelman  
Graeme Gibson

Peter Godwin  
Nadine Gordimer  
Juan Goytisolo  
AC Grayling  
Loree Griffin Burns  
Tarik Gunersel  
Eduardo Halfon  
Marketa Hejkalova  
Elizabeth Hiester  
Nick Holdstock  
Bob Holman  
Siri Hustvedt  
Philo Ikonya  
Lucina Kathmann  
William Kennedy  
Andrei Khadanovich  
Freya Klier  
Guenter Kunert  
Tony Kushner  
Ola Larsmo  
Eric Lax  
Gi-Won Lee  
Joanne Leedom-Ackermann  
Yang Lian  
Sonja Loots  
Geert Mak  
Alberto Manguel  
Emile Martel  
Tienchi Martin-Liao  
Myroslav Marynovych  
Ian McEwan  
Laura McVeigh  
Helmuth A. Niederle  
Elisabeth Nodgren  
Nelleke Noordervliet  
Vida Ognjenovic  
Michael Ondaatje  
Margie Orford  
Shahrnush Parsipur  
Francine Prose  
Andrea Reiter  
Salman Rushdie  
Teresa Salema  
Raffaella Salierno

Marjane Satrapi  
John Ralston Saul  
Eugene Schougin  
Eliot Schrefer  
Will Self  
Elif Shafak  
Mohamed Sheriff  
Haroon Siddiqui  
Sjón  
Gillian Slovo  
Wole Soyinka  
Guy Stern  
Noémi Szécsi  
George Szirtes  
Hori Takeaki  
Josep-Maria Terricabras  
Colin Thubron  
Lynne Tillman  
Colm Tóibín  
Jarkko Tontti  
Tomas Tranströmer  
Luisa Valenzuela  
David Van Reybrouk  
Mario Vargas Llosa  
Pad Venkatraman  
Fred Viebahn  
Marina Warner  
Richard Wentworth  
Ai Weiwei  
Tommy Wieringa  
Amy Wilentz  
A.B. Yehoshua