



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating  
25 Years of Dialogue

Pictured: Dui Hua's Office on Sutter St.,  
San Francisco since 2003







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# Our Team

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## DIRECTORS

### **John T. Kamm**

Chairman & Executive Director

The Dui Hua Foundation

### **Harold W. Furman II**

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Executive Director

### **Irene Kamm**

Chief Operating Officer & Board Treasurer

### **Jeffrey S. Muir**

Board Secretary

### **Kevin Li**

Senior Manager, Research & Advocacy

### **Candy Or**

Operations Manager

### **Samantha Silver**

Executive & Archiving Assistant

A thank you to our contractors and volunteers who support Dui Hua's work.

**“ I have told the Chinese government over and over that if you want to improve relations with the United States, release American prisoners. I guess they got the message. ”**

DUI HUA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN KAMM ON THE  
RELEASE OF PASTOR DAVID LIN, QUOTED IN “BEIJING  
RELEASES LONG-JAILED US CITIZEN”, POLITICO, 15  
AUGUST 2024

## A Message from our Executive Director

Befitting its 25th birthday, 2024 was an eventful year for the Dui Hua Foundation.

In September and November, American citizens on whose cases Dui Hua worked for many years, were released and returned home to their loved ones in the United States, the result of a first-ever prisoner swap with China. Pastor David Lin had spent 18 years in prison, Mark Swidan had spent 12 years in prison, while Kai Li had spent eight years behind bars. In all, at least eight American citizens were released in exchange for at least three Chinese citizens.

Despite ever-growing restrictions on data gathering, we added 701 names to our database of political and religious prisoners and submitted 38 prisoner lists. We learned that 21 prisoners on our lists received sentence reductions. As with past years, we remember that every name on those lists is an individual who faces coercive measures for exercising universally acknowledged rights to free, peaceful, and non-violent expression.

Sadly, we closed our office in Hong Kong owing to concerns over the city's National Security Law.



Since its implementation, space for free press has narrowed; by the end of 2024, nearly 1,800 people were in prison for politically related crimes.

Regardless of the setbacks, we remain focused on our mission: to attain clemency and better treatment for China's at-risk detainees by engaging in well informed, respectful human rights dialogue with its government. It is because of your support that we can continue the work. We thank you for that.

**John Kamm**  
Executive Director  
Dui Hua Foundation

## Our Mission - Dui Hua 对话 Means Dialogue

We are a nonprofit humanitarian organization seeking clemency and better treatment for at-risk detainees through the promotion of universally recognized human rights, in well-informed, mutually respectful dialogue with China.

Our work rests on the premise that positive change is realized through constructive relationships and exchange.

We focus on:

- Political and Religious Prisoners
- Juvenile Justice
- Women in Prison
- Issues in Criminal Justice

Dui Hua is the only human rights group that conducts direct dialogue on human rights in China with the Chinese government, the US government, and like-minded governments worldwide.

## Our Approach



**ADVOCACY** through respectful, well-informed dialogue with China, both directly and via the UN and government bodies.



**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** to apprise the global community of research findings and practical experience.



**EXPERT EXCHANGE** among criminal justice practitioners and experts, including China's Supreme People's Court.



**RESEARCH** through internet and library resources to uncover relevant cases, regulations, and trends.



**PUBLICATIONS** on prisoner cases and analysis of developments in criminal justice and human rights.

# Prisoner Advocacy

In April 1999, a small group of business leaders formed The Dui Hua Foundation. It began as a way to continue John Kamm's Prisoner Information Project, which Kamm launched after the 1989 Tiananmen protests to encourage clemency for protestors. When Kamm testified to Congress in support of Most Favored Nation trade status for China, he pledged to leverage any political capital he gained to advocate for political and religious prisoners in China.

Guided by the belief that it is a humanitarian act to monitor a foreign government's population of political and religious prisoners and to let that government know that you are doing so, Dui Hua's requests for information of at-risk detainees in China has prompted clemency and better treatment for many detainees.

To conduct this unique form of human rights diplomacy, Dui Hua must have an accurate account of people believed to be imprisoned for the non-violent expression of their political and religious beliefs. This is done through open-source research, the results of which Dui Hua enters into the Political Prisoner Database (PPDB).

Using the PPDB, Dui Hua compiles lists of at-risk detainees and submits them to the Chinese government.

Whenever Dui Hua submits a list, it is inquiring after a prisoner and engaging in the cultural equivalent of seeking clemency on the prisoner's behalf.

**Political Prisoner Database (PPDB):** One of the largest databases of Chinese political and religious prisoners. It holds information on people imprisoned for exercising universally recognized rights of free speech and association, gathered from open-source materials.

**Names in the database:** Political and religious prisoners incarcerated in China since 1980, foreign nationals including US citizens undergoing coercive measures, ethnic minorities and petitioners.

**Data used to:** Analyze trends in clampdowns on dissent, document the treatment of prisoners in the criminal justice system, inform dialogue with government officials inside and outside China, consult with human rights advocates, and prepare prisoner lists for raising names and advocating for clemency.

## Prisoner Information

Dui Hua's PPDB is one of the world's largest databases of Chinese political and religious prisoners, and Dui Hua remains the only non-governmental organization able to submit prisoner lists directly to the Chinese government, and to receive written responses. Access to the PPDB is granted to governments and organizations that support our work.

Although judicial transparency continues to deteriorate, Dui Hua's research continues to uncover new cases from legal and government sources, including information related to sentencing and clemency not known to the public.

## Our 2024 Numbers

**701**

Names added to the PPDB

**21**

Sentence reductions learned for names on our lists

**31%**

Names added are women

**65**

Names raised with the Chinese government

**38**

Lists submitted to the Chinese government

**24**

Prisoners about whom responses were received



At the end of 2024, the PPDB had 49,400 prisoner profiles, compared to 48,699 in 2023. Nearly 31% of those added were women. The PPDB's Active Registry, which tracks detainees currently undergoing coercive measures, contained records on 7,353 individuals.

We marked a milestone in 2024 with our 500th prisoner list. The bulk of our inquiries of the year were for prisoners in Guangdong Women's Prison, one of the largest women's prisons in the world.

In September 2024, American citizen David Lin was released four years early from a Chinese prison. Lin had been sentenced to life in prison in 2009.

In November, American citizens Mark Swidan and Kai Li were released as well.

Dui Hua had advocated for their cases for many years and played an important role in bringing about these welcome developments.



**Among those Dui Hua advocated for in 2024 are Professor Rahile Dawut (left) and retired medical doctor Gulshan Abbas (right), both of whom are ethnic Uyghurs. Image source: Lisa Ross and Wikipedia**



## The Death Penalty

China remains the world's top executioner, but transparency around its use of the death penalty continues to decline. Dui Hua's **Death Penalty Log (DPL)** tracks China's use of the death penalty, providing some of the most reliable figures on China's death sentences and executions available.

Dui Hua added 256 new entries to the DPL, learned about 127 death sentence judgments and 136 executions, 92 of which were carried out during 2024. We also learned of 105 review decisions.

A key development in 2024 was the release of a small batch of death penalty review decisions on the Supreme People's Court (SPC) judgements website in February. This release came after China's Universal Periodical Review (UPR) in January and is the first disclosure of such decisions since the purge of review decisions four years ago. The SPC released another small batch of decisions in September. There have been no new updates since then.



**In February and September 2024, the SPC released two batches of death penalty review decisions on China Judgements Online.**

**Image source: Screenshot of China Judgements Online**

# Consultations for At-Risk Detainees

## 2024 Consultation Numbers

**92** consultations with detainees,  
their families, or supporters

**An increasing focus of our interventions are  
on foreign nationals, US citizens and  
permanent residents**

Dui Hua conducts consultations with at-risk individuals facing coercive measures such as detention, imprisonment, residential surveillance at a designated location, and exit bans. These consultations may involve the detainees themselves or their families and supporters. From assisting families with legal inquiries to working with the United Nations (UN) Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, consultations are an important part of Dui Hua's advocacy.

In 2024, the foundation provided 92 consultations to human rights defenders and their supporters. It also provided 19 consultations to governments regarding their citizens sentenced to death in China. For the past few years, an increasing focus of Dui Hua's interventions has been on foreign nationals, US citizens, and permanent residents subjected to coercive measures.



# International Advocacy

## Special Consultative Status



China's Fourth Universal Periodic Review in 2024. Image source: UNTV

Dui Hua is one of the few overseas NGOs focused on human rights in China that has **Special Consultative Status** with the UN Economic and Social Council. We were granted this status in 2005 and have used it effectively. We have made submissions to all of China's Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR), and when appropriate, used our status to comment on the human rights record of the United States.

In 2024, our submission to China's fourth UPR called attention to China's declining judicial transparency, noting that much of the positive changes to transparency documented in Dui Hua's 2018 submission had either been negated or eliminated. It also made a recommendation on the death penalty. In response to declining transparency, a small batch of death penalty review decisions were released on the SPC's judgements website in February.

# Outreach and Publications

## Outreach

In the lead up to the presidential elections in the US, Dui Hua's Executive Director John Kamm explored Beijing's possible preferences and offered perspectives into the dynamics shaping US-China relations, at a talk at the University Club in San Francisco on October 17, 2024.

## Publications and Media

Dui Hua released 38 publications in 2024. These include an article on juvenile justice reform for Juvenile Justice Update, a publication by the Civic Research Institute, and a limited distribution memorandum on the trends identified in the death penalty review decisions released by the SPC in 2024.

We released eight Prisoner Updates as well as quarterly reports summarizing key cases and findings. Dui Hua also published articles on our work since founding, as well as the cases of several human rights defenders to illustrate its approach to intervention for at-risk detainees.



**In a podcast series marking Dui Hua's 25th anniversary, Dragon Years, we discussed pivotal moments in US-China relations, how they impacted Dui Hua's work, the critical role of dialogue in achieving results and juvenile justice reform.**

Our website duihua.org attracted 17,356 visitors and 39,643 pageviews.

Our work received substantial media attention. Dui Hua was cited by CNN, CBS, Politico, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, and New York Times, among others.

# Statement of Activities (Year ended December 31, 2024)

The following statement is summarized from the financial statements audited by Lindquist, von Husen & Joyce LLP, San Francisco, California. All amounts are in US dollars.

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Support & revenue:			
Government grants	276,820	-	276,820
Individuals & corporate contributions	233,694	-	233,694
Program service fees	20,000	-	20,000
Other income	36,005	-	36,005
Foreign currency exchange net realized loss	(230)	-	(230)
Net assets released from restrictions	159,058	(159,058)	
	725,347	(159,058)	566,289
Expenses:			
Program services	611,637	-	611,637
Supporting services			
Management	104,617	-	104,617
Fundraising	48,594	-	48,594
	764,848	-	764,848
Change in net assets	(39,501)	(159,058)	(198,559)
Net assets, start of year	764,741	159,058	923,799
Net assets, end of year	\$725,240	\$0	\$725,240



# Our Generous Contributors

With our deepest gratitude...

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Federal Department of Foreign  
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*\* Dui Hua Sustainer who gives  
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Thank You

#### **OFFICE**

450 Sutter Street, Suite  
900 San Francisco, CA  
94108 USA

T: (415) 986-0536

F: (415) 986-0579

#### **CONTACT**

[www.duihua.org](http://www.duihua.org)



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