



**We Persist in Our Three Demands as Always:
Truth, Compensation, and Accountability
——On the 34th Anniversary of the June Fourth Massacre
Essay by the Tiananmen Mothers**

May 27, 2023

HRIC Note: On the 34th anniversary of the June Fourth Massacre, the Tiananmen Mothers have authorized Human Rights in China to publish this essay. See our [website](#) for more information on June Fourth and the Tiananmen Mothers.

[Translation by Mi Ling Tsui]

The year 2023 marks the 34th anniversary of the June Fourth Massacre that unfolded on the night of June 3-4, 1989, on the ten-mile-long Chang'an Avenue in Beijing, the capital of China.

Though 34 years have passed, for us, family members of those killed, the pain of losing our loved ones in that one night has tormented us to this day, in a nightmare that has never let go. In a time of peace, the Chinese government flouted the world's condemnation and brazenly mobilized the nation's military power against unarmed students and ordinary people, in a massacre that shocked the world—the June Fourth Massacre. We, families of June Fourth victims, will not relinquish our determination to seek justice for our loved ones every single day that the authorities refuse to make public the truth about the massacre—until justice is done.

Since the 33rd anniversary of June Fourth, in 2022, seven members of our group have passed away (one of them died of old age and physical decline in the first half of the year, and the other six died in the second half of the year). Every time we heard the news of the passing of a fellow family member, we were struck with great sorrow, especially because we could not visit the families of the deceased immediately due to pandemic restrictions. Our hearts are heavy, with no relief.

As we commemorate our loved ones on this 34th anniversary of June Fourth, we

honor the deceased family members here—in order to restore history, bear witness to how the victims were killed, recall the harm and suffering inflicted on the victims’ families by the troops who perpetrated the massacre, and so that people can know their misery and remember their desire and unwavering determination to defend their lawful rights and seek justice for their loved ones. Although their lives are gone, their final wishes are still with us.

1. Lin Wuyun

Lin Wuyun died of illness in April 2022, at his son’s home. He was 92. Lin was a soldier. His wife, **Sui Lisong**, was a military doctor who had passed away several years earlier.

Their eldest son **Lin Tao** joined the army at the age of 18, and was demobilized three years later to work in Beijing. Lin Tao was 24 years old in 1989. After dinner on June 3, when he heard the news of martial law troops entering the city, he immediately left home on a bicycle. He has never been heard from since—and no one has seen him, dead or alive. When did he meet his fate? Where? There has never been an explanation.

One can only imagine what a blow Lin Tao's disappearance must have dealt to his parents, and what permanent trauma it has left in their hearts. His parents were both in the military, and their son perished at a time when martial law troops were shooting civilians. Now Lin Tao's parents can finally reunite with their son—far away from the slaughter. May heaven be filled with love always.



Sui Lisong and Lin Wuyun, parents of Lin Tao



Lin Tao

2. Zhu Yuxian

On September 25, 2022, Zhu Yuxian, 86, died of illness at home. Her health had always been poor, and she spoke little. When victims' family members visited her, whenever her daughter, **Wang Weiping**, was mentioned, she always cried silently as she listened to her husband explain how their daughter was shot and killed in 1989.

Wang Weiping was 25 years old, the third child in her family. She was a fresh graduate of Peking University Medical School (now Peking University Health Science Center) having finished its six-year clinical medicine program. That year, she was an intern at Peking University People's Hospital, ready to become a full-fledged doctor in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department of People's Hospital at the end of summer. On the evening of June 3, as soon as she learned that the troops were firing at and killing students and citizens on the streets of Beijing, she rushed to Muxidi, the nearest location where shooting was taking place, and joined in the rescue efforts without hesitation.

According to descriptions by those near her at the scene, she was very brave. She had no fear or regard for her own safety as bullets flew past her and threw off sparks as they struck the ground. She set about rescuing and bandaging the wounded who had fallen around her. Just as she was bandaging an injured person and raised her head slightly, a bullet hit her in the neck. She fell, killed instantly.

Wang Weiping's ashes are buried in Wan'an Cemetery. There is no inscription on her tombstone. On the pedestal is written: "The Grave of Ms. Wang Weiping." The ashes

of eight victims in our group are buried in Wan'an Cemetery, where families of June Fourth victims hold a collective memorial service every year. The participants in every memorial service would lay flowers at her grave and bow. She saved others with her life and love that year. People will not forget her, and she will always be remembered.



Zhu Yuxian, mother of Wang Weiping



Wang Weiping's graduation certificate



Wang Weiping's grave in Wan'an Cemetery

3. Jin Zhenyu

On July 15, 2022, when Jin Zhenyu's daughter, who lived with her, came back home after seeing a doctor at the hospital and obtaining a prescription for her mother, she found Jin lying on the floor, unconscious. Like that, Jin Zhenyu left this world. Her death was too sudden, leaving us all in grief.

Jin Zhenyu and her husband **Piao Changkui** were both ethnic Koreans. In 1989, she was 43 years old and worked as the manager of the warehouse for labor protection gear at the Central Iron and Steel Research Institute. Her husband, 47, was a musician with the Central Song and Dance Ensemble.

On the night of June 3, Piao was hit by a bullet fired from martial law troops on the roadside near the intersection of Fuxingmen and Xidan Roads. He was shot in the back of his head on the left side, and the bullet exited his lower right neck. He was brought to the Post and Telecommunications Hospital near Xidan where he died. His ashes were buried in Jinshan Cemetery in Beijing. There is no tombstone.



Jin Zhenyu



Piao Changkui

The June Fourth tragedy had separated the couple for 33 years. With the death of her husband, Jin Zhenyu shouldered the heavy burden of raising their two daughters alone. She had never told others about the material and mental pressure she faced. But we can well imagine the hardships she endured. This is perhaps the most fundamental

reason for her sudden illness and death.

4. Feng Youxiang

Feng Youxiang, 67, passed away on November 6, 2022. We, June Fourth victims' family members, had known him as a very robust man from the north of the country, very strong, honest, and straightforward. When we learned that he was in poor health and visited him during the pandemic, he looked like a completely different person: he was rail thin, his neck was too weak to support his head, and he spoke with his head down, not able to look up. In his sister's words, he died of heart failure, kidney failure, and respiratory failure, from years of pressure from life, isolation, and loneliness.

Indeed, were it not for the harm done to this family by the June Fourth tragedy, they would have been very happy. With a son, the family of three would have lived together in warmth and comfort, and Feng Youxiang would not have passed away at such a young age.

Feng Youxiang's wife, **Liu Jinhua**, was from Tianjin. She was 34 years old when she died in 1989. The two had met and fallen in love in Tianjin, and married three years later in 1980. They gave birth to a boy the following year. After their marriage, Liu Jinhua was transferred from Tianjin to Beijing to work at the General Sanitarium for Retired Political Cadres.

On the evening of June 3, 1989, when husband and wife were walking near the Yanjing Hotel in Muxidi on their way home, they encountered martial law troops coming from the west heading toward Tiananmen Square. At that time, West Chang'an Avenue was so jammed with people that it was impossible to pass through. They could hear waves and waves of gunfire coming from afar. But the good and honest ordinary folks who had lived in peacetime for so long did not believe that the government would actually shoot the people with real bullets. They naively thought that those were rubber bullets, as did the couple—until the sounds of gunshots pressed closer and closer. Feng Youxiang was shot first, and the bullet hit his left leg. Almost at the same time when he collapsed, his wife fell too.

Feng Youxiang was taken to Beijing Children's Hospital by the people around him and then transferred to No. 306 Hospital. In the hospital, he anxiously waited for news of his wife. He found out a few days later from his family that his wife had been taken to Beijing Air Force General Hospital. The bullet struck her in the upper left forehead,

and she was already dead on arrival at the hospital. The knowledge of his beloved wife's death overwhelmed him with pain and tore him apart. He nearly lost the courage to live.

Feng Youxiang could not accept this brutal fact and came close to a mental breakdown. In order to be away from this sorrowful place, he entrusted the care of his son to his sister, quit his job, and left home to make a life for himself, alone. For 33 years, until his death, his sister had taken care of him and made great efforts to encourage him to live on.



Feng Youxiang



Liu Jinghua

On April 21, 2023, Feng Youxiang was buried with his wife. Liu Jinhua's grave is in Tianjin—her parents did not want their daughter to be far from them. In their earth-shattering, heart-wrenching grief in the innocent death of their child, the parents wanted to be able to visit her grave every year during their lifetime to tell their daughter their painful yearning for her.



The scar left by the gunshot wound on Feng Youxiang's left leg



The tombstone of Liu Jinhua and Feng Youxiang's grave

5. Wang Huirong

On December 24, 2022, Wang Huirong, 85, died of COVID-19. White masses in the CT scan showed that three-quarters of her lungs were ravaged by the virus. We also learned that the vast majority of June Fourth victims' family members were infected by the virus following the relaxation of pandemic restrictions and had experienced varying degrees of symptoms. But basically, the crisis has stabilized. And this is comforting to us, a vulnerable group.

Wang Chao was the eldest son of Wang Huirong and the only boy in the family. In 1989, he was 26 years old. He studied management at the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and was a graduate of the class of 1986. He worked at the Stone Company in Zhongguancun, a major tech hub in Beijing's Haidian District. His wedding was scheduled for June 4. On the evening of June 3, he went to a classmate's home near the Sanli River to deliver wedding candies. At about 10:00 p.m., he was shot by the martial law troops' frenzied gunfire north of the Muxidi Bridge. Wang Chao was shot in the head as he was standing in the front row of the crowd. He was taken by residents to the People's Liberation Army Naval General Hospital. His was the third unidentified body there.

The following day, someone came to Wang Chao's home to ask if he had come back. That person said that he must have been shot if he hadn't come home. The entire

family then went looking for him. They went to many hospitals but could not find him. In the end, it was a staff member of the Lenovo Group, where Wang Chao's sister worked, who found him in the Naval General Hospital.

Wang Chao's head was a ghastly sight—the hospital just bandaged it up. When his parents and family members saw his body, his head was completely wrapped in gauze; not even his eyes were visible.

Wang Chao's parents both worked at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. They were utterly devastated by the news of their son being shot dead. Joy had filled the entire family in the preparation for his marriage. Wang Chao's innocent, sudden death hurled them into the abyss of depression and anguish. Wang Chao's father died of illness within a few years of the June Fourth tragedy. Wang Huirong suffered from Parkinson's disease in her old age and was wheelchair-bound. In the end, COVID-19 took her life.



Wang Huirong



Wang Chao

6. Zhang Shusen

Zhang Shusen, mother of June Fourth victim **Chen Laishun**, died in October 2022, at the age of 89.

Chen Laishun was 23 years old, a graduate of the 1989 class of the Journalism Department of Renmin University of China, and trained to work at Xinhua News Agency. In the evening of June 3, he was shot in the head and killed while taking photos on the roof of a single-story house on the northwest side of the Great Hall of the People in Tiananmen Square. Because he was studying photojournalism, his professional sensibility had compelled him to record evidence for history. Little did he know that the flash of his camera would expose his position and lead an evil bullet toward him.

After Chen Laishun was killed, his classmates raised funds to purchase a grave in Jinshan Cemetery near Hongqi Village in Xiangshan District, in the northwestern suburb of Beijing, where they buried him and erected a tombstone.

Chen Laishun had two elder sisters and an elder brother. He was the youngest child and the only college student—the pride of the whole family. His innocent death brought great suffering to the family. Chen's father passed away in 2001. When he was dying and unable to speak, he raised his little finger and cried as family members gathered around him. The family knew that he was unable to let go of the fact that his youngest son was shot to death and that his wish to seek justice for his son was

unfulfilled. Chen's mother, Zhang Shusen, had said in grief and anger when her son died: "Was it easy for a working family to raise a college student? How could my son die just like that? If he were a thug, show me the evidence!" This is the knot in the heart of a mother bereft of her son, a grievance unredressed. This is the blood debt the Chinese government owes to its people.

Zhang Shusen was a strong mother. She actively joined in the efforts to search for June Fourth victims' families. As soon as she received information about a victim, she would inquire with various sources and use all the power at her disposal to locate the family. She found several victims' families for our group, and she was also among the first group of mothers to sign our petitions. As a result, Zhang Shusen's family was monitored, suppressed, and harassed by relevant government departments. For years, her family knew no peace because of the harassment.



Zhang Shusen



Chen Laishun



Banner: “We deeply mourn our classmate Chen Laishun,” at a memorial at Renmin University

7. Wang Guangming

Wang Guangming, father of June Fourth victim **Wang Jianping**, died on September 2, 2022, two days after he fell into a coma from a cerebral hemorrhage.

Wang Jianping was 27 years old when he died. He was a driver for the southern suburb fleet of the Beijing Municipal Gas Company. On the night of June 3, he and his wife rode their bicycles to the intersection of Xidan Road and Chang’an Avenue, where they encountered martial law troops opening fire and were separated by the panicked crowd. When the wife heard that someone had been shot, she thought it was her husband and fainted. The entire family then went out looking for Wang Jianping. They asked in many major hospitals and looked through piles of dead bodies. It was not until June 7 that they recognized Wang Jianping from the photos of the deceased posted in the Beijing Emergency Center.

The doctor at the emergency center told them: This young man was still groaning when he was being carried into the hospital. If he had been treated in time, he would have lived. But the order from the superiors was to only treat wounded soldiers, not civilians. And so he died.

Isn’t this kind of instruction from the superiors too cruel to ordinary citizens? Every life has the dignity of a human being. Arbitrary deprivation of someone’s life is a crime.



Wang Guangming, father of Wang Jianping



Wang Jianping, victim

Filled with vigor and dynamism, these lives were killed without a just cause. Their relatives, parents, wives, children, brothers and sisters, and all the righteous and good and honest people simply cannot accept the sudden calamity that befell them. Their hearts bleed, their grief devastating, and their trauma unhealed to this day. But the government has, from beginning to end, taken measures to control the narrative of June Fourth and put off addressing the tragedy, in attempts to erase people's memories of those brutal facts.

We, the Tiananmen Mothers, have walked the path of defending our lawful rights and seeking fairness and justice for 34 years now. Although we have not yet seen hope, we will not give up. We will continue, as we have done in the past, to persist in our three demands, for truth, compensation, and accountability—to seek fairness from the government, preserve our dignity as human beings, and uphold justice for the victims. We are waiting for the government to apologize to the families of all the victims and to express remorse to the people for the June Fourth massacre of 1989.

Signers (116):

尤维洁	You Weijie	郭丽英	Guo Liying	张彦秋	Zhang Yanqiu
吴丽虹	Wu Lihong	祝枝弟	Zhu Zhidi	叶向荣	Ye Xiangrong
丁子霖	Ding Zilin	张先玲	Zhang Xianling	周淑庄	Zhou Shuzhuang
钱普泰	Qian Putai	吴定富	Wu Dingfu	宋秀玲	Song Xiuling
孙承康	Sun Chengkang	于清	Yu Qing	孙宁	Sun Ning
黄金平	Huang Jinping	孟淑英	Meng Shuying	袁淑敏	Yuan Shumin
刘梅花	Liu Meihua	谢京花	Xie Jinghua	马雪琴	Ma Xueqin
邝瑞荣	Kuang Ruirong	杨大榕	Yang Darong	贺田凤	He Tianfeng
刘秀臣	Liu Xiuchen	沈桂芳	Shen Guifang	谢京荣	Xie Jingrong
要福荣	Yao Furong	孟淑珍	Meng Shuzhen	邵秋风	Shao Qiufeng
谭汉凤	Tan Hanfeng	王文华	Wang Wenhua	陈梅	Chen Mei
周燕	Zhou Yan	李桂英	Li Guiying	徐宝艳	Xu Baoyan
狄孟奇	Di Mengqi	王连	Wang Lian	管卫东	Guan Weidong
刘淑琴	Liu Shuqin	孙珊萍	Sun Shanping	刘天媛	Liu Tianyuan
黄定英	Huang Dingying	熊辉	Xiong Hui	张彩凤	Zhang Caifeng
何瑞田	He Ruitian	田维炎	Tian Weiyan	杨志玉	Yang Zhiyu
李显远	Li Xianyuan	王玉芹	Wang Yuqin	方政	Fang Zheng
齐志勇	Qi Zhiyong	何兴才	He Xingcai	刘仁安	Liu Renan

齐国香	Qi Guoxiang	韩国刚	Han Guogang	庞梅清	Pang Meiqing
黄 宁	Huang Ning	王伯冬	Wang Bodong	张志强	Zhang Zhiqiang
赵金锁	Zhao Jinsuo	孔维真	Kong Weizhen	刘保东	Liu Baodong
齐志英	Qi Zhiying	方桂珍	Fang Guizhen	雷 勇	Lei Yong
葛桂荣	Ge Guirong	郑秀村	Zheng Xiucun	桂德兰	Gui Delan
王运启	Wang Yunqi	黄雪芬	Huang Xuefen	郭达显	Guo Daxian
王 琳	Wang Lin	朱镜蓉	Zhu Jingrong	穆怀兰	Mu Huailan
王争强	Wang Zhengqiang	宁书平	Ning Shuping	曹云兰	Cao Yunlan
冯淑兰	Feng Shulan	付媛媛	Fu Yuanyuan	李春山	Li Chunshan
蒋艳琴	Jiang Yanqin	何凤亭	He Fengting	奚永顺	Xi Yongshun
肖宗友	Xiao Zongyou	乔秀兰	Qiao Xiulan	陆燕京	Lu Yanjing
李浩泉	Li Haoquan	赖运迪	Lai Yundi	周小姣	Zhou Xiaojiao
周运姣	Zhou Yunjiao	陈永邦	Chen Yongbang	刘永亮	Liu Yongliang
张景利	Zhang Jingli	孙海文	Sun Haiwen	王 海	Wang Hai
陆三宝	Lu Sanbao	姚月英	Yao Yueying	任改莲	Ren Gailian
倪世殊	Ni Shishu	杨云龙	Yang Yunlong	崔林森	Cui Linsen
吴卫东	Wu Weidong	贾福泉	Jia Fuquan	王德义	Wang Deyi
石 晶	Shi Jing	袁 刃	Yuan Ren	包丽梅	Bao Limei
奚贵君	Xi Guijun	钟俊华	Zhong Junhua	轧爱强	Ya Aiqiang
陈卫东	Chen Weidong	郝 建	Hao Jian	张素英	Zhang Suying
林 莉	Lin Li	段昌琦	Duan Changqi		

In accordance with fellow families' suggestion, we are including the names of deceased fellow members to honor their final wishes (71):

吴学汉	Wu Xuehan	苏冰娴	Su Bingxian	姚瑞生	Yao Ruisheng
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杨世钰	Yang Shiyu	袁长录	Yuan Changlu	周淑珍	Zhou Shuzhen
王国先	Wang Guoxian	包玉田	Bao Yutian	林景培	Lin Jingpei
寇玉生	Kou Yusheng	孟金秀	Meng Jinxiu	张俊生	Zhang Junsheng
吴守琴	Wu Shouqin	周治刚	Zhou Zhigang	孙秀芝	Sun Xiuzhi
罗 让	Luo Rang	严光汉	Yan Guanghan	李贞英	Li Zhenying
邝涤清	Kuang Diqing	段宏炳	Duan Hongbing	刘春林	Liu Chunlin
张耀祖	Zhang Yaozu	李淑娟	Li Shujuan	杨银山	Yang Yinshan
王培靖	Wang Peijing	袁可志	Yuan Kezhi	潘木治	Pan Muzhi
萧昌宜	Xiao Changyi	轧伟林	Ya Weilin	刘建兰	Liu Jianlan
索秀女	Suo Xiunü	杨子明	Yang Ziming	程淑珍	Cheng Shuzhen
杜东旭	Du Dongxu	张桂荣	Zhang Guirong	赵廷杰	Zhao Tingjie
陆马生	Lu Masheng	蒋培坤	Jiang Peikun	任金宝	Ren Jinbao
张淑云	Zhang Shuyun	韩淑香	Han Shuxiang	石 峰	Shi Feng
王桂荣	Wang Guirong	隋立松	Sui Lisong	田淑玲	Tian Shuling
孙淑芳	Sun Shufang	陈永朝	Chen Yongzhao	孙恒尧	Sun Hengyao
徐 珏	Xu Jue	王范地	Wang Fandi	李雪文	Li Xuewen
王双兰	Wang Shuanglan	张振霞	Zhang Zhenxia	肖书兰	Xiao Shulan
谭淑琴	Tan Shuqin	高 捷	Gao Jie	金亚喜	Jin Yaxi
邢承礼	Xing Chengli	周国林	Zhou Guolin	郝义传	Hao Yichuan
陆玉宝	Lu Yubao	曹长先	Cao Changxian	尹 敏	Yin Min
刘 乾	Liu Qian	林武云	Lin Wuyun	金贞玉	Jin Zhenyu
冯友祥	Feng Youxiang	王惠蓉	Wang Huirong	朱玉仙	Zhu Yuxian
张树森	Zhang Shusen	王广明	Wang Guangming		