

Chinese Protests December-April 2014

Hong Kong's Umbrella Revolution

A Game-Changing Social Movement?

Dorothy Grace Guerrero 2 October 2014

The protest in Hong Kong, which is now in its fifth day and was started by the Occupy Central with Love and Peace group that preceded the current mass mobilization, could turn out to be a game-changing social movement. Many local and foreign human rights groups fear that what began as a call for the right to independent suffrage could lead to a crackdown similar to what happened in Tiananmen Square in Beijing 25 years ago if it escalates and becomes violent.

<http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/default.asp?2,40,5,3268>

Hong Kong: Massive anti-government protests

Anger over police violence fuels spontaneous umbrella revolution and growing strike movement

Vincent Kolo, chinaworker.info 30 September 2014

This was the weekend that changed everything in Hong Kong. Mass popular resistance on the streets, by night and day, with mass gatherings of 100,000 and up to 180,000, spearheaded by the youth and a weeklong student strike, has forced the unelected Hong Kong government and thousands of heavily armed riot police to beat a retreat.

<http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/default.asp?2,40,5,3265>

Hong Kong workers strike for democracy

LabourStart 29 September 2014

The Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions (HKCTU) - the only independent union in China - has called for workers to strike in support of the democracy movement as mass civil disobedience actions come under heavy police attack. The Swire Beverages (Coca-Cola) union and the HKCTU unions of school teachers and dockers are striking and will be joined by other member unions.

<http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/default.asp?2,27,3,3309>

Hong Kong protests dwindle, as talks continue

News 24 10 August 2014

Hong Kong - Pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong that brought tens of thousands on to the streets last week dwindled to a few hundred on Wednesday after activist leaders agreed to talks with the government which are all but certain to go nowhere.

The student-led protests have calmed since clashes with police more than a week ago, and the number of protesters calling for universal suffrage has fallen dramatically since violent scuffles broke out at the weekend between demonstrators and pro-Beijing opponents.

<http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/default.asp?2,27,3,3318>

Hong Kong: What next after massive July 1 demo?

Battle-lines hardening as masses push for democracy while government steps up repression

This year's '7.1' (July 1) anti-government demonstration in Hong Kong was massive, one of the biggest protests in East Asia in the past decade. Demo organisers put the attendance at over 500,000, similar to the turnout in 2003 - a revolt against repressive national security legislation ('Article 23'), which gave birth to '7.1' as a day of anti-government protest. Many participants believe the turnout was even bigger, perhaps 700,000. With the march starting at 3.00pm, it was 11.00pm by the time the last ranks had reached the finishing point.

<http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/default.asp?2,40>

Hong Kong background

- » Hong Kong was ruled by the British from 1842 until 1997, with no democratic rights for the people. In 1997 it was handed back to China.
- » Since 1997 the Hong Kong administration has ruled with limited rights granted by the Chinese Communist Party, under "one country, two systems".
- » In 2007 China promised that Hong Kong could elect its chief executive by "universal suffrage" for the first time in 2017.

Occupy timeline

20-29 June 2014: Occupy Central organises an unofficial referendum on the democratic reforms and 20 percent of the population take part.

1 July: Over 500,000 demonstrate for democracy; 500 are arrested.

August: the Chinese regime rules that election candidates must be approved by a nominating committee.

22 September: University students begin a boycott of classes; 400 academics publicly support them.

26 September: School students join the boycott.

27 September: Protests converge on the Admiralty financial and government zone.

28 September: Protesters occupy the central square. When police attack them with tear gas supporters throw umbrellas over the barricades to protect them.

Unfairness, insecurity widely expressed on China Internet: report

BEIJING, Oct. 17 (Xinhua) -- Unfairness and insecurity are widely expressed online in China, with over 40 percent of Internet users venting such feelings, a report shows.

Nearly 45 percent of 1,800 Internet users surveyed demonstrated a sense of unfairness, and 41.3 percent of them showed insecurity, according to the report released Thursday by Shanghai-based Fudan University.

Titled "China Internet community mentality," the report is based on the analysis of posts written or forwarded by the Internet users on social networking services in two years.

The report said people born in the 1970s felt the strongest senses of unfairness and insecurity, with a percentage of 51.2.

Business elites and rich people are the second most to express insecurity, which is also widely felt by groups in poverty, it added.

Education is the most talked about among Internet users, followed by corruption, [housing prices](#) and income distribution. The fight against corruption ranks number one among issues found most satisfactory, the report said.

The report also pointed out that web rage in China is lower than expected. Only 14.6 percent of the 1,800 took up online protests or other actions for certain demands, and 3.3 percent organized such actions.

Eighty-four percent of Internet users have no fixed targets to criticize, while 6.8 percent always fire at certain specific policy, system or organization, it said.

Regarding the nation's future, 53.3 percent of the surveyed are positive about the political situations and 82.5 percent are positive about the economy.

More than 64 percent of the Internet users believe the government will lead them to "change the status quo," the report said

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-10/17/c_133723871.htm

China Focus: Bitter days for China's sugar industry

NANNING, Oct. 7 (Xinhua) -- China's embattled sugar industry, facing pressure from foreign competitors and technological shortcomings, is caught in the middle of a year-long sales crisis.

In Guangxi, strikes by sugarcane farmers have been reported due to unpaid wages.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-10/07/c_133697193.htm

S China trash incinerator still under discussion: government

GUANGZHOU, Sept. 14 (Xinhua) -- A controversial trash incinerator project in Huizhou City in south China's Guangdong Province is still in the discussion stage, local government said on Sunday in response to a mass gathering Saturday.

The planned ecological garden, which will contain an incinerator project, is still being discussed, said the spokesman with the Huizhou Municipal Government.

Rumors claimed the site of the garden had already been decided and the project was under construction, but they were all misinformation, said the spokesman.

More than 1,000 people gathered at a square in the city's Bolong County on Saturday over concerns about site selection for the project.

Roads were not blocked and there were no extreme behaviors, such as smashing or looting, during the mass gathering, the spokesman said, adding that the crowd dispersed around 11:30 a.m. the same day.

The planned ecological garden will contain trash recycling, landfill, incineration and biological treatment facilities, he said.

A draft of the plan was published in the Huizhou Daily on August 16 and will be posted on the city's housing and construction bureau website for one month. Specialist agencies are also conducting survey and evaluation work on the project's environmental implications and

geological conditions.

Government authorities will hold a demonstration meeting and hearings with the participation of local residents and experts. The demonstration and final decision will be made in accordance with the law and legal procedures, said the spokesman.

The municipal government of Huizhou will give full attention to the site selection and is soliciting opinions from all sides to make a law-based scientific decision, he added.

He said he hopes the public can remain rational and express opinions and appeals in a peaceful way.

Incinerators are considered the most feasible and effective means for Chinese cities to dispose of massive amounts of garbage.

The Huizhou mass protest follows another protest by hundreds of residents in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province over an incinerator project.

Protests began in April when the Hangzhou municipal government released information about the incinerator. It is a major project for the city, which must find a way to ease pressure on garbage disposal.

Local government authorities promised construction would not start without public support and before going through the legal process.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-09/14/c_133642214.htm

Petitioners in suicide attempt arrested, officials punished

English.news.cn 2014-07-28 20:43:34

BEIJING, July 28 (Xinhua) -- Seven petitioners have been arrested after drinking pesticide at the gate of a newspaper in Beijing, while 14 officials from Sihong County, Jiangsu Province were punished for irregularities in a demolition project.

Seven petitioners drank pesticide on the morning July 16 at the gate of the China Youth Daily, drawing wide public attention. The protesters had petitioned repeatedly about what they considered to be unjust treatment during a demolition project. All survived, but have since been arrested for suspected provocation, according to the State Bureau of Letters and Calls (SBCL).

The SBCL, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and other departments conducted field inspections after the incident and found evidence of breaches by Sihong officials during an urban redevelopment project in 2013.

The 14 officials, including the executive head of the county government and the Party chiefs of Sihong county and Qingyang township, were punished according to disciplinary procedure but none were removed from their posts.

The case is still under investigation.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-07/28/c_133516175.htm

Workers end strike after managers cut own salaries in Guangdong

English.news.cn 2014-09-11 16:44:42

GUANGZHOU, Sept. 11 (Xinhua) -- Thousands of workers ended a two-day strike outside a Taiwanese electronics manufacturing plant in south China's Guangdong Province after company executives promised to cut their own salaries by 10 to 30 percent.

Senior executives at Dongguan Masstop Liquid Crystal Display Co.,Ltd. made the decision to cut their own salaries as a cost-reduction measure following negotiations with worker representatives.

The factory is run by Taiwanese electronics manufacturer Wintek Corporation, which supplies Apple.

Another subsidiary of the company in Dongguan, Wintek (China) Technology Ltd, also resumed production Thursday, but a resolution has not yet been announced, said Xu Liqing, a local publicity official.

About 16,000 workers from the two subsidiaries went on strike Tuesday and Wednesday protesting their holiday benefits. They received much lower cash bonuses for the Mid-Autumn Festival than expected. The festival, which fell on Monday this year, is an important traditional holiday for family reunions in China.

A worker surnamed Zhang said the staff each received 700 yuan (114 U.S. dollars) in cash and a box of mooncake on Mid-Autumn Festival last year.

According to a statement of Dongguan Masstop Liquid Crystal Display Co., Ltd, the recent poor business of the company led to the reduction of workers' holiday welfare.

During the strike, workers blocked roads near their factories.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-09/11/c_133636192.htm

16,000 Chinese workers strike over holiday benefits

English.news.cn 2014-09-11 00:13:16

GUANGZHOU, Sept. 10 (Xinhua) -- About 16,000 workers at two subsidiaries of a Taiwanese Apple supplier in south China's Guangdong Province went on strike Wednesday in protest over holiday benefits.

About 8,000 workers at Dongguan Masstop Liquid Crystal Display Co., Ltd., run by Taiwanese electronics manufacturer Wintek Corporation, halted work for a second day.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-09/11/c_126972749.htm

This is a group of very strong women – notes from the Guangzhou University Town sanitation workers' strike.

Sun, 08/31/2014 - 12:42 — wkf

China Labour Net Editorial Note: On August 21st more than 200 striking sanitation workers from Guangzhou University Town gathered at GOGO Xintiandi protesting against the termination of their labour contracts by their employer, a property services company, and its refusal to pay compensation according to the workers' years of service.

Before August 28th the workers had already been on strike for seven days, every day still sitting out in the square. More than 80% of the workers involved in the strike are women. Although the workers continue to be suppressed, the atmosphere is one of solidarity. Meanwhile, the strike has also received attention from university students, who have supported the workers.

These are the notes of a Guangzhou citizen reporter who visited the strikers and made on site interviews to vividly record the story of the women sanitation workers. <http://www.worldlabour.org/eng/node/689>

Behind China's Wildcat Strike Wave

Jane Slaughter 20 October 2014

China is the world center of wildcat strikes—given that no strike in China is officially allowed under the law. The government doesn't issue statistics, but one source found 1,171 strikes and worker protests from June 2011 through 2013.

Strikes are on the rise since 2008, but they all take place outside the official channels of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. China labor scholar Eli Friedman, who speaks Mandarin and has spent a great deal of time in the country, shows us throughout *Insurgency Trap* how the ACFTU takes a “passive repressive” response to worker unrest—and sometimes not so passive. His case studies show how in even the supposed best examples—the ones that ACFTU officials show to visiting foreign unionists—workers find their union worthless and contracts go unenforced.

The upshot is that the rising wave of protests sometimes wins concrete gains for particular groups of workers but does not result in lasting organizations that workers could use to fight to alter the balance of power. The ACFTU is the only union allowed.

<http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/default.asp?2,40,5,3278>

Yuhang mass protests shake Chinese regime

Massive police repression after thousands march against waste plant in Zhejiang province

Vincent Kolo, (China Worker) 17 May 2014

In March, to great fan fare, Premier Li Keqiang promised to launch a “war on pollution.” But after this weekend's chaotic and bloody scenes in Yuhang, Zhejiang province, it seems the government has launched a “war on pollution protesters” rather than anything else. A massive crowd campaigning to stop a planned waste incinerator clashed with hundreds of riot police on Saturday 10 May. The demonstrators blocking a major highway numbered 5,000, or even 30,000 according to some accounts.

<http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/default.asp?2,40,5,3172>

New strike wave hits China

The most recent strike, one of the largest in China in many years, is taking place at a Taiwanese-owned factory complex, Yue Yuen, in the city of Dongguan.

Peter Boyle spoke to Kevin Lin, who is doing research for his PhD at the University of Technology Sydney on the labour movement in China, about the background to a new wave of strikes in the country. 14 may 2014

There seems to be a new labour upsurge in China. What can you tell us about the recent strikes and their causes?

<http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/default.asp?2,40,5,3171>

China: Labour disputes soar

40,000 workers paralyse world's largest sports shoe maker

chinaworker.info reporters 19 April 2014

Workers at six out of ten factories in Dongguan owned by Taiwanese multinational Yue Yuen have been on strike for the past three days after discovering the company has not been paying legally required levels of social security and housing contributions.

"The factory has been tricking us for 10 years," a woman worker told Reuters. "The [local] Gaobu government, labour bureau, social security bureau and the company were all tricking us together."

<http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/default.asp?2,27,3,3192>

Taiwan: Occupation of parliament ends after 23 days

What are the lessons of the island's 'sunflower movement'?

China Worker 11 April 2014

Taiwan has witnessed an unprecedented mass protest movement since 18 March when around 200 students occupied the main chamber of the Legislative Yuan (parliament) to stop the ratification of the contentious Cross-Strait Service Trade Agreement (CSSTA) between Taiwan and China. The beginning of an 'Asian Spring' is how some media commentators have described this movement. The abrupt way the protests have ended raises many questions about what the movement has achieved and which social forces can mount a serious challenge to neo-liberal economic policies and trade deals. We interviewed Sally Tang Mei-ching, who has been coordinating CWI Taiwan's participation in the Taipei protests.

<http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/default.asp?2,27,3,3185>

Free Wu Guijun! Strike is not a crime!

Calling concerns from all sides: Justice for Workers!

HKCTU 3 April 2014

The case of Wu Guijun: Trial after a 10-month detention

In early May 2013, the employer of Shenzhen Diweixin Product Factory started to relocate the factory to Huizhou City. By law, workers are entitled to financial compensation based on the years of service (equivalent to one month's wages per year of service). 300 workers went on strike to demand negotiation with the employer and due compensation. The employer agreed to pay only 400 Yuan per year of service after the month-long strike which is much lower than the legal minimum.

On 23 May, some 200 workers marched to petition the district government to seek help and all of them were detained by the riot police. Most workers were released the next day except Wu Guijun. Wu is one of the workers' representatives in the negotiation. He was kept under detention and later charged for "gathering crowds to disrupt traffic order

<http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/default.asp?2,27,3,3177>

China arrests citizen journalists for reporting Tiananmen 'self-immolation'

Jonathan Kaiman, The Guardian, 13 March 2014

Chinese authorities have detained Huang Qi, director of the human rights website Tianwang, and three citizen journalists, Wang Jing, Liu Xuehong, and Xing Jian, who is 17 years old, for reporting two recent "incidents" in Tiananmen Square, including an apparent self-immolation. "Journalism is not a crime and these three activists should be released immediately," William Nee,

China researcher at Amnesty International, said in a statement.

<http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/default.asp?2,27,3,3158>

IBM strike reflects worker power in China

Pretoria News 9 March 2014

A wildcat strike at an IBM factory in southern China illustrates how tectonic shifts under way in the country's labour market are emboldening workers to take matters into their own hands, raising risks for multinationals.

<http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/default.asp?2,27,3,3147>

Hong Kong: Newly formed Refugee Union stages sit-in protests

Interviews with refugees fighting injustice and official high-handedness

Vincent Kolo, chinaworker.info 21 February 2014

Chinaworker.info met the members of the newly formed Refugee Union at the Prince Edward offices of International Social Service Hong Kong (ISS-HK), which they occupied for one week, starting Tuesday 11 February, before being evicted by a court order. Two other welfare offices in Mong Kok and Tsuen Wan have also been occupied. ISS-HK receives government funding to administer social welfare payments to cover asylum seekers' rent and emergency food provisions. These allowances are very low - so low, that it is hard to conceive how anyone survives like this! But there is growing anger among many of the 5,000 or so asylum seekers served by ISS-HK that the agency is failing in its legal obligations to administer the payments.

<http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/default.asp?2,27,3,3137>

China halts incinerator project after violent protests



Damaged police vehicles lying on a road after residents clashed with police during a protest in Hangzhou. Photo: AFP

China has backed down from a move to build a waste incinerator in eastern Hangzhou city after the plan drew public wrath and protests against it turned violent, injuring dozens of demonstrators and policemen.

The plant will not be built without public support and before going through the legal process, Xu Wenguang, head of the city's ruling Communist Party said.

With the public becoming increasingly critical of mounting pollution and health hazards from industry, China has been seeing a rise in environment—related protests. Residents in proximity to the site fear the project may well be a health hazard and add to pollution.

Thousands of people resorted to rare protests on Saturday blocking main

highways. State-run Xinhua news agency said dozens were injured in clashes between police and protesters.

More than 30 cars were overturned. The protesters set two police cars on fire and smashed another four. PTI

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/china-halts-incinerator-project-after-violent-protests/article5999075.ece>

China Focus: Hangzhou protest tests China's governing capacity

English.news.cn 2014-05-14 21:50:02

HANGZHOU, May 14 (Xinhua) -- Hundreds of locals on Wednesday continued to protest against a planned waste incinerator in east China's Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang Province.

"I welcome a new incinerator, but not in my backyard (NIMBY)," one protestor said. The protest highlights public concern and is a test for the local government.

Protests began in April when Hangzhou municipal government released information about the incinerator. It is a major project for the city, which has to find ways to ease pressure on garbage disposal.

The planned location of the incinerator is Zhongtai Township in Yuhang District in western Hangzhou.

The site used to be Jiufeng mine, which is surrounded by hills. The incinerator would process garbage from residents living in the city's western area.

Residents argue the project will impact their living conditions, health and the value of properties.

"It will be so horrible if the region is polluted by the incinerator," said a resident surnamed Chen.

On Saturday protesters rushed onto the Hangzhou-Anhui highway, interrupting traffic. At least 10 protestors and 29 policemen were injured during clashes.

On Sunday local government authorities promised construction would not start without public support and before going through the legal process.

But protests have continued this week.

The incinerator is seen as the most feasible and effective means to ease the amount of garbage in the city. Once in use, three other waste incineration plants would be shut down, said the municipal government.

The city has to bury more than 5,000 tonnes of landfill waste, much more than the processing capacity of its existing incinerators. This has a huge impact on the environment, the government said.

The NIMBY movement represents worries among residents and their concerns for the environment.

"China gained its high-speed economic development at a high cost to the environment. Resulting environmental pollution has affected people's bodies and minds," said Yang Jianhua, director of the Institute for Public Policy of Zhejiang Academy of Social Sciences.

"The top priority for the government is to regain public trust," he said.

The public demands to be part of social governance as China progresses.

Yang called for a change in the government management model.

A government's slow or poor planning decision might lead to questioning and protests. Joint discussions and an evaluation would allow for a more balanced decision, he said.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-05/14/c_133334098.htm

China Voice: Stop the weird cycle of protest, project suspension

English.news.cn 2014-05-14 18:11:35

BEIJING, May 14 (Xinhua) - A massive protest in the east China city of Hangzhou over the weekend has forced the government to suspend a planned waste incinerator.

However, it was not a victory of public democracy as 10 protestors and 29 policemen were injured and police cars overturned.

Plans for a petrochemical plant were also aborted by the government of Maoming, Guangdong Province, in late March after thousands of demonstrators took to the streets to protest over possible health hazards.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-05/14/c_133333784.htm

18 detained in protest over PX project

English.news.cn 2014-04-03 22:48:10

GUANGZHOU, April 3 (Xinhua) -- Police detained 18 people for public order offences during a protest against a paraxylene (PX) project in south China's Guangdong Province.

Liang Luoyue, deputy mayor of Maoming City, told a Thursday press conference that the violence began with a few suspects throwing plastic bottles and eggs at police on Sunday afternoon during a protest by more than 1,000 locals against the chemical plant.

At around 8:00 p.m., more than 40 people attacked two cars in the city square across from government headquarters and assaulted police. Two hours later, stones and bottles were hurled at the gates of the government building, shops and billboards were vandalized, and a police wagon set on fire, Liang said.

Zhou Peizhou, deputy director of Maoming Public Security Bureau, denied reports that 15 people had died and 300 were hurt in clashes between police and demonstrators, saying that despite some scuffles, nobody was dead.

Zhou added that 15 people, including 4 police, who were hurt in the

violence and sent to hospital. Sven who remain in hospital are in stable conditions.

Liang Luoyue met with protesters' representatives on Tuesday afternoon and reaffirmed the promise of public consultation.

Liang said the government will strengthen communication with residents and expand channels for them to express their demands through meetings with government officials, the media and on the Internet. The Maoming government's commitment to the PX project is strong, as shown in the 100,000 brochures sent to local homes.

"The PX project will bring about 10,000 jobs and increase tax revenues by 674 million yuan (110 million U.S. dollars) every year," the brochures read, claiming PX is a combustible chemical with low toxicity and no evidence to link it with cancer. The government has run a publicity campaign since late February in local newspapers, trying to dispell fears of the project's safety.

Since 2007, PX projects planned in Xiamen, Dalian, and Kunming have been halted after residents complained, believing the factories would threaten the local environment.

PX is a major raw material in polyester.

There will be a shortage of up to 9.5 million tonnes of PX in China this year, according to a report by China Petroleum and Chemical (Sinopec) Corp., a state-owned oil refiner. The domestic PX industry only met 47 percent of demand in 2013, according to the report.

Maoming is a major petrochemical production base. The PX project was approved in 2012 with an annual production capacity expected at 600,000 tonnes, according to media reports.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-04/03/c_133236877.htm

Yuhang mass protests shake Chinese regime

May 13, 2014 3:42 amViews: 44

Massive police repression after thousands march against waste plant in Zhejiang province

Vincent Kolo, chinaworker.info

In March, to great fan fare, Premier Li Keqiang promised to launch a “war on pollution.” But after this weekend’s chaotic and bloody scenes in Yuhang, Zhejiang province, it seems the government has launched a “war on pollution protesters” rather than anything else. A massive crowd campaigning to stop a planned waste incinerator clashed with hundreds of riot police on Saturday 10 May. The demonstrators blocking a major highway numbered

5,000, or even 30,000 according to some accounts.

Yuhang, which is 20 kilometres from the regional capital of Hangzhou, has seen largely peaceful protests on a daily basis over recent weeks. Plans to construct similar waste incinerators, which are clouded by concerns of increased rates of cancer, have met massive public opposition in other cities in recent years. According to one official source the number of environmental ‘mass incidents’ has risen by an average of 29 percent per year since the mid-1990s. Just one month ago the city of Maoming, in Guangdong province, saw thousands protest against a petrochemical plant, forcing the local government to “review” its plans.

The violence in Yuhang erupted on Saturday evening and followed an all-too familiar pattern. Thousands of demonstrators had gathered to block a highway in response to an appeal circulated after the Zhejiang provincial governor Li Qiang arrived in Yuhang and appeared to overturn the decision of local leaders – under pressure from the protests – to suspend construction of the waste plant.

<http://chinaworker.info/en/2014/05/13/7107/>

“Release Lin Dong” demand Hong Kong protesters

May 15, 2014 8:16 pm Views: 32

NGO activist seized during Dongguan shoe workers’ mass strike • To fight for unpaid social insurance contributions is not a crime!

Socialist Action reporters in Hong Kong

Protesters gathered outside the Central Government’s Liaison Office in Hong Kong on Wednesday May 14 to protest against the detention of 27-year-old Lin Dong, an NGO activist.

The protest was timed one month after the big strike at Dongguan Yue Yuen’s factories broke out over non-payment of social insurance and housing fund contributions by the company, the biggest contract manufacturer of athletic shoes in the world, which makes shoes for global brands such as Adidas, Nike and Timberland. The strike which ended amid massive threats and repression, within dozens arrested and a police takeover of several factories, has set a new milestone for

China's emerging labour movement.

During the strike, Lin Dong of the Chunfeng Labour Justice Service Department, a Shenzhen-based non governmental organisation (NGO), volunteered to assist the workers communicate their demands to company bosses. As a result police arrested Lin and placed him in criminal detention on April 22, also raiding his group's office and seizing two computers. He is now accused under stricter online censorship laws introduced last year of causing an online "disturbance" by spreading information about the strike.

In Wednesday's protest, supporters of Socialist Action (CWI in Hong Kong) marched from the Western Police Station to the Liaison Office to demand Lin's release, but also to affirm workers' right to organise. The protesters shouted slogans: "Release Lin Dong! Workers' right to organize, workers' right to strike! Down with the CCP dictatorship!"

<http://chinaworker.info/en/2014/05/15/7143/>

China: Repression and arrests used to end Yue Yuen strike

May 1, 2014 12:03 am Views: 126

Beijing finds sports shoe manufacturer guilty of "wrongdoing" while local government, police and company bosses coordinate a crackdown

chinworker.info reporters

It is one of the biggest strikes in China for decades and has attracted international attention. The strike at factories owned by Yue Yuen Industrial Holdings in the Dongguan township of Gaobu is already one for the history books. Dongguan is in Guangdong province, which accounts for more than a fifth of China's exports. The ruling 'Communist' Party (CCP) has been understandably nervous about such a massive protest, and the risk of a ripple effect. The strikers, up to 50,000 at one stage, demanded back payment of millions of yuan in unpaid social insurance and pension contributions.

Yue Yuen claim the direct losses from the strike are US\$60 million. This shows the economic power of workers. The increase in social security costs and subsidies for the entire workforce will increase by US\$31 million, which is just a small proportion of the profit of the company in 2013, US\$435 million.

An opaque and confusing welfare system allows companies across China to scam workers by evading their legally required payments. A month ago, workers discovered that Yue Yuen was basing its contributions to workers' social security funds on their basic salary,

rather than on their full pay, which in China includes many hours of overtime. Workers also discovered the job contracts issued by Yue Yuen are not legally valid. They demanded these and several other abuses be rectified; also crucially demanding the right to form their own union and no punishment of strikers.

Yue Yuen makes one-fifth of the world's sports shoes for global brands like Adidas, Nike and Timberland. A strike of this size and duration – lasting more than two weeks – is exceptional and all the more noteworthy in a country and political system where strikes are illegal and routinely repressed.

<http://chinaworker.info/en/2014/05/01/6899/>

1200 Shenzhen Workers Call for the Full Implementation of Social Security Fund

Sat, 05/03/2014 - 07:38 — wkf

1200 workers from 101 factories signed an appeal calling for the full implementation of the social security fund. The appeal points out that what had happened to the Dongguan Yue Yuen workers' pension fund last April, also happened in Shenzhen. It also expresses disappointment over Shenzhen's January 2013 law on employers' paying back to the pension fund what they owed previously. According to the appeal this law carries no substance at all, making the law just "a sheet of paper". Towards the end of the appeal it says that "we want to take back our rights to social security - these rights are earned through our sweat and blood and sacrificing our youth."

<http://www.worldlabour.org/eng/node/675>

Hong Kong May Day March: over 3000 demonstrate for labour rights and democratic elections [photos]

<http://worldlabour.org/eng/node/676>

Thousands protest at Dongguan's largest shoe factory

Tue, 04/15/2014 - 05:53 — wkf



[Want China Times](#)

2014-04-08

Several thousand workers from Dongguan's largest shoe factory, Yue Yuen, took to the streets on Sunday to protest a disagreement over benefits and labor contracts, reports Hong Kong newspaper Wen Wei Po.

The protesters are accusing the shoemaker of deceiving staff by giving the same social security benefits to workers who have been with the company for more than 10 years as to casual staff and of signing void labor contracts. The factory has reportedly promised to give staff an official response by April 14 and claims that production has not been affected.

Yue Yuen Industrial Holdings, headquartered in Hong Kong and established by its Taiwanese parent company Pou Chen Group is the largest branded athletic and casual footwear manufacturer in the world. Its Dongguan factory was established in 1988 and employs more than 60,000 workers who make shoes for major brands such as Nike, Adidas and Reebok. A worker surnamed Yang told the paper that several workers at the factory recently became aware that their social security benefits were based on income far lower than their actual earnings. Yang said he had been working for Yue Yuen for 20 years and earns about 3,000 yuan (US\$485) per month on a labor contract without a limited term. After checking with local authorities, however, he discovered that his employer had been paying social security benefits based on a salary of just 1,810 yuan (US\$290), a level equivalent to casual workers.

Another worker, surnamed Li, said he has been working at Yue Yuen for more than 10 years but when he tried to enroll his child at a Dongguan school using his employment contract he was told that the document was legally void. Many of his colleagues have also experienced the same thing when trying to enroll their own children, he added.

<http://www.worldlabour.org/eng/node/670>

Yue Yuen Workers Won't Cry

April 28, 2014

This morning, workers from the Laosan plant (plant no. 3), who were the last batch of workers to hold the line, finally resumed work after the combined and heavy pressure from the government and the management. The ten days wei-quan (defend one's rights) action by Yue Yuen workers has drawn to a close, at least temporarily. At noon, heavy rain fell from the sky, as if the heaven also cried for us in sadness.

At 9 am, a friend at the Laosan plant texted me saying that they are now resuming work and along with this there was also a long list of crying and hugging emojis. Today, each and every Yue Yuen worker felt humiliated in his or her heart. In 21st century socialist China, at the frontline of the Reform and Open policy, ie, Dongguan, Guangdong province, there are now scenarios where the police and their dogs are mobilized and violent assaults are used to force workers back to work. This is the shame of Dongguan, and more importantly, the shame of history!

Yes we failed. Under the violence of batons and police dogs we had to resume work. Yet, deep in our hearts, we feel proud as we participated in this great wei-quan struggle. This action is going to be seen as a mile stone in the history of Chinese workers' wei-quan. It symbolizes that the Chinese labour movement has now advanced from merely demanding wage raises to demanding more social security (although this is what the laws stipulate in the first place). This is a great advancement! In future when one looks back at the history of Chinese labour movement one will see a great monument, with the words "Yue Yuen" inscribed on it.

During the Yue Yuen workers' wei-quan struggle, the solidarity actions launched by Jiangxi Yue Yuen workers and from all social quarters, plus solidarity actions initiated by Hong Kong/Taiwan/overseas labour groups, have given us the greatest courage and support. This allows us to know that we are not isolated, that your hearts have always been with us. Thank you!

This wei-quan event is now over. But is it? No! This is but a rehearsal, a beginning of an even more glorious Yue Yuen labour movement in future. After the baptism of this struggle, in the future the Yue Yuen workers will only be more organized, more courageous in fighting for their interests!

Tonight we are all Yue Yuen workers. Hold on Yue Yuen workers, don't cry!

<http://www.worldlabour.org/eng/node/674>

Dog meat festival celebrated despite mounting protests

YULIN, Guangxi, June 21 (Xinhua) -- People in south China celebrated the annual dog meat festival on Saturday despite mounting protests from animal welfare groups and pet owners.

On the festival, slated for June 21 this year to mark the summer solstice in

Yulin City of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, about 2,000 dogs are often consumed.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-06/22/c_133427475.htm