



# Incorporating Responsibility 2008: HRIC's Beijing Olympics Campaign

**IR2008**

INCORPORATING  
RESPONSIBILITY  
■  
BEIJING 2008

In 2003, HRIC launched IR 2008, a research and monitoring project focusing on the Chinese government's human rights practices in the run-up to the 2008 Olympics. The IR 2008 campaign seeks to take strategic advantage of international windows of opportunity arising from China's role as host of the 2008 Olympics, its increasing integration into the international community, and a growing Chinese civil society. Through specific initiatives and outreach, IR 2008 targets a range of actors, including corporations, multilaterals, the media, governments and NGOs.

The focus for IR 2008 is guided by three benchmarks—the release of all political prisoners, removing censorship and surveillance of the Internet, and greater investment in social welfare to ensure equitable development—as measures of progress in promoting and respecting freedom of expression and information, civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights.

Following is a summary of the campaign's activities in the most recent quarter:

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- Briefed legal professionals on **legal reform** issues in China, including reform of religious regulations, regulations on petitioning and the dismantling of the *hukou* system;
  - Hosted a **building social justice** consultation exploring ways to address past human rights abuses, bringing together human rights scholars, practitioners and activists to explore the applicability of existing frameworks for assessing the past;
  - Submitted briefing materials to US President George W. Bush in advance of his visit to the PRC in November highlighting **increasing crackdowns on civil society organizations** as well as urgent political prisoner cases;
  - Continued to report cases of **human rights defenders** inside China, including highlighting cases of petitioners and political prisoners;
  - Transmitted urgent cases of concern to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, highlighting the cases of **Xu Zhenqing, Zhang Lin, Shi Tao, Zhu Jiuju and Xu Wanping**;
  - Presented on **international corporate social accountability** issues at three major events convened in Amsterdam, New York and Montreal. HRIC presented an overview of human rights situation in China, and a framework and suggestions for advancing human rights that built on existing linkages between human rights, trade and business;
  - Co-hosted consultation with Rights and Democracy, a Canadian NGO, on **international trade in security and surveillance technology** that examined China as case study. The roundtable was attended by representatives from U.S. and Canadian governments, civil society, private industry and academia;
  - Developed an online bilingual resource on **Yahoo!** and the conviction of journalist **Shi Tao**. The incident was a striking example of the role that international businesses can play in either undermining or supporting independent voices. This Web site provides case documents and supporting materials, information control measures in the People's Republic of China (PRC), Yahoo! corporate policies and relevant media news tracking.

With Beijing 2008 less than three years away, HRIC's Olympic Campaign has entered a new phase, launching IR2008.org. The Web site builds on and expands HRIC's work on *Incorporating Responsibility 2008*, including integrating human rights defenders case profiles, analysis of Olympic sponsors and venue construction, reports on Internet censorship and crackdowns and monitoring of China's Olympic commitments.

In the coming months, IR2008.org will be expanded to include:

- Launch of Chinese-language IR2008.org;
- Interactive benchmarking features highlighting imprisoned political prisoners and human rights defenders;
- *Log-on for Access* open access campaign; and
- Calls on corporations and other invested organizations to place pressure on the PRC government for the release of targeted imprisoned groups.

HRIC invites you to visit IR2008.org and support the IR 2008 Campaign activities!