

An Outsider's Opinion: Does Jiang Zemin Really Represent the Chinese People?

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When Chinese President Jiang Zemin visited France in October of 1999, a reporter asked him why there were always so many Chinese protestors who followed him wherever he went. Jiang answered, "I don't know what they want to do!" Jiang's answer was angry and shocking. As the President of China, if Jiang Zemin really doesn't know what those Chinese people want, shouldn't he make efforts to try to understand them? No matter what they do, either protesting or petitioning, they must want to express something from their heart. Even during the Chinese feudal society, common people had the right to express their views about the alleged injustices! If Jiang Zemin knows what is going on, why didn't he want to tell the reporter the truth?

Actually Jiang Zemin knows this better than anybody else: among those people who had followed him were exiled Tibetans, Falun Gong practitioners who had encountered persecution in China, and other people with differing political opinions. The Tibetan protestors represented the millions in Tibet who are being denied religious freedom; the Falun Gong protestors represented the millions of practitioners in China who are deprived the freedom of cultivation.

One of the theories from Jiang Zemin's three representations is: Those in the Chinese [*party name omitted*] Party are "the honest representatives who stand for the basic benefits of the general Chinese population." It is hard to say whether the "general Chinese population" includes the millions and millions of Tibetans and Falun Gong practitioners. It is well known that a couple of million people can equal the population of a small country and many millions may equal that of a large country's population. No matter what these groups want to express, either Jiang Zemin does not want to listen or he does not dare to listen.

What is even more shocking is when Jiang Zemin stays Hong Kong this month, mainland tour parties are prohibited from visiting Hong Kong. They even stopped issuing border-crossing permits in Shenzhen and Zhuhai, two frontier cities that are next to Hong Kong and Macao. Falun Gong practitioners in Hong Kong wish to make peaceful petitions to Jiang Zemin and ask him to stop persecuting Falun Gong practitioners. However, the Hong Kong Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa will not allow the practitioners access to do this. If they treat the Falun Gong practitioners' peaceful petition like this, how can they accomplish the "two systems in one country" which is written into the Hong Kong Constitution? It is a known fact that before Hong Kong returned to China, Hong Kong was a colony of Great Britain. The yellow-skin residences of Hong Kong and the ordinary people from Mainland China had never been treated as enemies like this even when the noblemen from Britain visited Hong Kong. However, after Hong Kong returned to China, the treatment of the people who are supposed to be their own "masters" are much worse than the treatment in colonial time. What kind of "general Chinese population" does Jiang Zemin represent?

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