

---

WORLD BANK POLICY

---

## China enforcing population slashes

by Richard Katz

In the People's Republic of China, according to reliable press reports, thousands of women who are pregnant for the second or third time are being subjected to forced, violently administered abortions. Often, the women are dragged from their homes, put in handcuffs, stuffed en masse into trucks, strapped down on operating tables and forced to undergo the operation.

This is the population control program that was hailed in the 1981 Annual Report of the World Bank and in the Brandt Commission report as a model for all nations to follow. In its section called "Success in Family Planning," the Brandt Commission report—now being promoted for adoption at the October North-South summit in Cancún as a globally agreed-upon policy—states:

"Those who have pursued such [birth control] programs vigorously have registered considerable success. China, which already has 1 billion people, has in the course of the 1970s reduced its rate of growth from 2.3 percent to little more than 1 percent. It aims at zero growth by the year 2000."

The barbarities committed in China to achieve this success are of no more concern to Socialist Willy Brandt, chairman of the Brandt Commission, or to the World Bank, than they are to those in the Reagan administration who portray the People's Republic of China as America's number-one friend in Asia.

The World Bank, praising China as a model, boldly lies that the country's birth control program is based on "disincentives that are mostly social—the community disapproves of those who do not conform to the birth-planning policies." Let us take a closer look at these "social disincentives."

According to the Hong Kong-based *Zhenming Daily*, a procommunist newspaper that factionally opposes Chinese strongman Deng Xiaoping, the forced abortions were ordered at the highest level of the Communist Party in Guangdong province, the home province of Canton. In Guangdong alone, 47,000 women—nearly half of those who became pregnant for the second or third time—have undergone abortions since April. Under Communist Party orders, arrest warrants were issued for

all the women "pregnant without permission"; the women were labeled "criminals." It was explained that the party had "adopted a policy of dealing with the *enemy*."

The Guangdong province party secretary said that even though he was "working contrary to the will of the people," the campaign against population growth should be treated as a military campaign in which "all measures leading to victory were permissible." He also informed party cadre that there would be no investigation of any complaints.

In the Guangdong province, for example, "Some women were abducted from their villages and carried away by truck to local hospitals. Wherever the vehicles went, the pregnant women were all panic-stricken. The vehicles were filled with wailing noises."

A paraphrase of the *Zhenming* report in the Aug. 9 London *Guardian* adds: "Other witnesses reported women being handcuffed or dispatched to the hospital in pig baskets. All victims were compelled to pay their own transport costs together with the expenses of their guards, some of whom were armed. . . . Those who refused abortions found their water and electricity cut off and their front doors sealed. Fines equal to several years' pay were levied, and televisions, bicycles, and other personal property seized. If women fled, their husbands were imprisoned until their wives returned and underwent the abortions."

Nationally, the Peking regime has instituted new laws forbidding couples from having more than one child, from having their first child without permission from the Party, and so forth. All this is for the goal of reaching absolute zero population growth by the year 2000, the most extreme Malthusian program in the world.

In other areas of China, the Peking press has reported, parents frequently murder their first-born girls, in order to make sure they have a son, given that each couple is allowed only one child. In a number of cases, the infant corpses have been deposited on the doorsteps of the local party headquarters. Second or third children are harassed, are refused identity cards, schooling, and the prospect of any job. The family receives no ration for the "surplus" child.

The World Bank describes this policy differently in its Annual Report: "In China, couples pledging to have only one child receive priority in financial allowances, employment, and housing." Presumably, next year's World Bank report, in discussing the Guangdong forced abortions, will say that China has a community-provided, rapidly delivered service for abortions.

As one representative of the Washington-based Population Crisis Council, on which former World Bank President Robert McNamara sits, explained earlier this year, "I am not concerned about stories about strapping women to the abortion table. The important thing is to achieve zero population growth."