

# Tiananmen massacre: an eyewitness report

by Hanyan

*The following is a personal account of the massacre in Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989, reported by an eyewitness—a Beijing University student who escaped from China and is now living in Vancouver, British Columbia, in Canada. Because the student fears reprisals against relatives still in China, her real name cannot be used. Because the Bush administration and the butchers of Beijing have agreed to return to business as usual, we believe it is important to remind our readers of the events related here.*

On June 4, 1989, I and other students accompanied a Chinese tricycle from one university to another. On the tricycle was the body of a nine-year-old boy, who had six gaping bullet holes in his chest. He lay stiff in the arms of his mother, who, totally unprepared for such a fact of life, had gone mad. Wherever we went with the tricycle, people wept openly, in spite of the immediate danger that sympathy of any kind shown to the victims might bring upon them.

The next day I watched several students from the Beijing Sports Institute fight the martial law troops with their bare fists. One of them was killed right before my eyes, another was arrested. It was not that they were so stupid as not to realize the futility of fighting firearms with fists, but that they would rather die than live under a regime that would use guns against peaceful demonstrators.

The deeds of these students were matched by the courage of students from the Beijing Chemical Engineering Institute, who used home-made gasoline bombs against the tanks in Tiananmen Square.

Immediately after the massacre, the Communist Party propaganda machine began issuing stories and showing pictures and scenes of Beijing citizens sending gifts and provisions to the martial law troops, supposedly expressing their gratitude to the army.

The truth behind such scenes is that these citizens were assigned to do this, against their will. At the University of Beijing, for example, all the professors were summoned by the Communist Party secretary for the university. They were told the mission and volunteers were called for. Since no one seemed eager to volunteer, the secretary asked party members among the professors to take the lead. Still nobody responded. So lots were drawn. On the day when those who were selected to undertake the "honor" of taking provisions and gifts to the martial law troops performed their duty, they went about it as if they were heading for the gallows.

## Chinese Communists use food to control people

*From the speech to a Food for Peace conference in Chicago, Nov. 4-5, by Ying Tsui, member of the National Committee of the Chinese Democratic Party:*

Friends, brothers and sisters of the human race: You amaze me! You come here to care for the poor people. You care for the people in suffering. You amaze me! I thought nobody cared for the poor people. I thought nobody cared for the people in suffering.

Before I was 16 years old, I never had more than a half-pound of meat each year. For two of these years, I never had any food but garbage! I ate, not the sweet potato, but the leaves of the sweet potato. I ate anything edible. I ate mice, I ate cockroaches, I ate the afterbirth of cattle.

I was 60 pounds at 16 years old, when I escaped from mainland China. I ate so much when I got to Hong Kong, within two months I was 90 pounds. This is my personal suffering from lack of food.

In my village, which was about 1,000 people, from the year 1959 until '63, almost every month, one person starved to death. When people starve so much, near the end they drink a lot of water, and the whole person swells up. And once the body shrinks, that is the day of death.

In starvation, morality goes so far down, a father takes away his daughter's food; the mother steals her son's rationing; people trick each other for food; people steal

The disgust with the Communist Party regime is not only manifested in such public acts of defiance, but is also seen in family disputes and complete changes in individuals' personalities.

### People changed overnight

I have a friend whose father is a District Mayor in Beijing. For decades he and his wife have been living in perfect harmony. But after the June 4 massacre, when I went to visit them, his wife talked tearfully with me for over three hours about the massacre. She told me that she had given her husband her ultimatum—"If you continue to work for this government, I will divorce you; and will not permit my children to any longer call you 'Father.' "

An old professor who used to teach us Chinese was known on campus for his fondness for his young wife and his son, who was born when the professor was already over

by all means, because the government steals everything from the people.

They use food to control the people. We saw it under communism. You only have your rationing in the place where you get your assignment. That is the only place you can get your rationing.

Human rights, human dignity—what are they? There's no such thing as human rights, no such thing as human dignity! People are like dogs, like pigs. In the last 40 years, the Communists have managed to maintain the population in slavery, in ignorance, so that they can handle them with ease. They intimidate the will of the people. They laugh at the people. They are liars, as the whole world knows these days. Communists can say anything they please. . . . They promote the ugliness of human nature. Kindness is condemned.

There is a necessity for some organized opposition party in China. The people's agony is very clearly observed in Tiananmen Square on June 4. The people's force and the people's power is also clearly observed in Tiananmen Square on June 4. The success of the Poles, the success of the Hungarians tell us there is a necessity for an opposition political party. We believe that.

The doomsday of all inhuman tyranny will come soon. We just need to fight hard, and work hard. The end of our enemy is coming. God helps those who help themselves. We need to help ourselves. We'd like help from all over the world. . . .

We'd like to build a society of justice, of kindness, of hard-working people. Without justice, people don't know what they're working for. . . .

We need to learn how to educate, based on wisdom



*Ying Tsui of the Chinese Democratic Party.*

and love. We need to learn how to make a sound economy with strong infrastructure for energy, for transportation, for education. . . .

We need to face this world of injustice, of inhumanity. I am a member of the Chinese Democratic Party. Our objective is to build a democratic China for the Chinese people, and for the peace of the world. If China is in the wrong man's hands, there's no way the world can have peace—from Cambodia, from Vietnam, we can see that.

I have no more to say, except to work hard, to fight hard, and to learn hard. Let's do it together. Thank you.

50 years old. He therefore always stayed home except for his time in the classroom. But during the demonstrations he walked all the way to the campus to listen to news from the student-run radio station. Several times I saw him so engrossed in listening to the broadcasts that he even forgot he was standing in the rain!

Under the pervasive "white terror" of the regime against the democracy movement, the struggle has gone underground. An astute observer noted that an article in the government's *People's Daily*, several weeks after the massacre, which explained the function of tear gas, actually disclosed in an indirect way the hideous crimes of the current regime. No wonder the party is still increasing its control over any means of public discussion by closing down more and more newspapers and journals.

A Chinese proverb goes: "Where there is oppression there is rebellion." It sums up both the way the Chinese people

look at events in the world, and the principle by which they live.

Do not think that the Chinese people have been intimidated into submission. As a matter of fact, my talks with people who have arrived in Vancouver more recently, have convinced me that only the extremely gullible are buying the government's story of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Forty years' experience under the rule of the Chinese Communist Party has taught the Chinese people to read newspapers in a unique way: If the newspapers say that things are normal, they are actually abnormal; if the government says that there were no deaths in Tiananmen Square, there must have been many casualties in that very place.

People have learned, and are learning, to fight back in every conceivable way. In this sense, we may say that the Chinese Communist Party sounded its own death-knell on June 4, 1989.