

For immediate Press Release

Bay Area Commemorates the 16th Anniversary of Tiananmen Crackdown

The coming first week of June marks the 16th anniversary of the bloody crackdown of the pro-democracy mass protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989. To commemorate this tragedy, San Francisco Bay area Chinese activists are hosting a series of events featuring photo exhibition, mass rally and open forum.

Organizers hope to reveal the truth about Tiananmen through the silent words of photographs exhibited in downtown San Francisco and Fremont during the Memorial Day weekend. An open forum titled "The Past As Future" hosted by US-Japan-China Comparative Policy Research Institute based in San Jose will take place at Milpitas Public Library on Friday June 3, between 7 and 9 p.m. Forum participants include former Tiananmen leaders, ex-prisoners, elected officials, business people, unionists, scholars and the general public. The forum seeks to get different perspectives about China as a dictatorship, an emerging "superpower," her prospects for democracy as well as her relations with major powers like the United States and Japan.

Though China has become economically stronger than it was 16 years ago, it remains a dictatorship without basic human rights such as freedom of expression or religious belief. Up until now, the Chinese government has not reversed its verdict of the Tiananmen movement in 1989 as a "counter-revolutionary rebellion." Democracy activists say that a complete, factual review of the crackdown is long overdue.

"A real strong country should have the courage to face its own history," said Fengsuo Zhou, a former student leader in exile in San Francisco.

The commemoration will culminate in a flower offering on Sunday, June 5 and a mass rally the following day, both in downtown San Francisco.

[Schedule of Events]

Photo Exhibition

12-5 p.m., **May 28 & 29**

Portsmouth Square (Heart of Chinatown), 733 Kearny Street, San Francisco, CA 94108.

9 a.m.-5 p.m., **May 28, 29 & 30**

Lake Elizabeth, Central Park, 40000 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont, CA 94538.

Open Forum

7-9 p.m., **June 3**

Milpitas Library, 40 N. Milpitas Boulevard, Milpitas, CA 95035

Memorial Rally

1:30-4:30 p.m., **June 5**

(Route to be decided)

Flower Offering

4:30-5:30p.m., **June 5**

Portsmouth Square, San Francisco.

Bay Area Tiananmen Memorial Committee
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