

## Free Bishop Jia!

Sunday, 14 September 2008

On Monday September 15, 2008 from 3:45 - 4:45, Free Church for China, Inc. will sponsor a protest near the United Nations at Dag Hammarskjold Park (at the corner of E47th Street and 1st Avenue in NYC) calling for the immediate and unconditional release of 73-year old Roman Catholic Bishop Julius Jia Zhiguo. Bishop Jia is a member of the underground Catholic Church in China and was arrested on August 24 and remains in detention for no criminal reason.

The following are among those who will speak at this protest: Ann Noonan/Free Church for China, Inc.; Reggie Garcia Littlejohn, One-Child Policy Expert/ Human Rights Without Frontiers; Jeremy Taylor/Step Up with Jeremy Taylor; Ari Hoffnung/ Riverdale Jewish Community Council.

A Visual Artists Guild banner calling for the release of Bishop Jia which was displayed on Assumption Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Pasadena, California will be on display during Monday's event. Other speakers will be announced.

Bishop Jia runs an orphanage for handicapped children in China's Hebei Province. He has refused to join China's government-approved Patriotic Church, and has been a victim of religious persecution in China for decades.

It is believed that his most recent arrest and detention was to remove him from public view during Beijing's Paralympics from September 6 - 17. September 15, 2008 marks the opening day of the United Nations Plenary Session.

China is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. According to the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, religious freedom is a fundamental human right.