



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Ruben Diaz

Harry Wu, Founder of the Laogai Research Foundation

RUBEN DIAZ May 8, 2013

CHEN FENGXIAO

In 1957, Chen Fengxiao was a Beijing University student. He organized the "Hundred Flowers Society" and published a periodical called "The Square." Later, the Party cracked down on him for speaking out. Chen was labeled an "extreme Rightist" and "counter-revolutionary" and sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment and reform through forced labour. When his sentence was completed in 1972, Chen Fengxiao remained in forced job placement until he was finally released in 1978.

HARRY WU

During the 1957 rectification movement, university student Harry Wu (above) was urged to speak his views on the Communist Party. Wu was labeled a "Rightist" for criticizing the Soviet invasion of Hungary. In April of 1960, he was sentenced to life in the Laogai. For 18 years, he was forced to labour in 12 different camps (right). He survived torture, famine, and dangerous working conditions.

Wu was released in 1978 and made a living as a professor of geology. In 1985, he was invited to be a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley. After testifying about his experience as a political prisoner before the US Congress, Wu returned to China, undercover, to collect evidence of forced labour in the Laogai. He collected video inside the prisons, which he used to expose the Laogai system to the outside world.

In 1957, when the CCP called upon others to "speak freely," those who offered up their opinions were subsequently categorized as "Rightists" and sent to the Laogai. Countless intellectuals were killed during this period.