

## Clinton Turns A Deaf Ear As Woman Undergoes Forced Abortion

By Leslie Bond Diggins

President Bill Clinton has once again demonstrated his callous disregard for unborn human life, and the rights of women who want desperately to give birth to their children, by turning a deaf ear to repeated pleas for help from a Chinese couple facing the brutal forced abortion of their child.

Twenty-two-year-old Jihong Liu finally submitted to a forced abortion at the hands of Chinese population control officials April 29, four days after her husband, a legal permanent resident of the United States, received a letter from the Clinton Administration rejecting his desperate entreaties for his wife's expedited entry into the United States. According to Immigration and Naturalization Service officials, Liu had already received approval to come to the U.S., but because of a backlog she was two years away from receiving her visa, the *Catholic Star Herald* reported.

"The Clinton Administration has shamefully turned its back on a desperate woman in need," said Congressman Chris Smith (R-N.J.), who had joined 50 other members of Congress in seeking for Liu what is known as "humanitarian parole" - - in this case, expedited entry to the U.S. for humanitarian reasons. "The President, Attorney General Janet Reno, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service have turned a deaf ear to repeated pleas for humanitarian relief from Liu's husband and many Members of Congress," he said. "The coldness and the callousness of this decision is shocking."

Pregnant with the couple's first child, Liu had been denied a "birth permit" and was told to undergo an abortion because of her age, a press release from Smith's office explained. Evidently, in addition to the draconian "one couple, one child" policy brutally enforced throughout China, the province in which Liu resides also requires women to be at least 23 years old before giving birth. Liu is 22.

Reportedly, Liu went into hiding in China to protect the life of her unborn child. On March 26, her



Congressman Chris Smith R-NJ

husband, Alan Wanrong Lin, wrote to Clinton begging him to take action to save the couple's unborn child.

"My wife is in China and pregnant, but the government wants to force her to get an abortion - - to kill our baby," he wrote. In late March and early April, Smith and dozens of other members of Congress added their voices to the couple's desperate entreaty - - but to no avail.

After receiving the letter rejecting the couple's desperate pleas for help April 25, Lin concluded that he had no other choice but to advise his wife to surrender to authorities and submit to an abortion rather than risk retaliation against her family and neighbors from Chinese authorities. In a letter faxed to Rep. Smith April 29, Lin stated that "this afternoon at 4:00 p.m. [pacific time], our child will be completely dead."

According to the *Catholic Star Herald*, Clinton's immigration authorities defended their decision to deny humanitarian parole to Liu as consistent with a policy of admitting people for humanitarian reasons in response to actual, not implied threats.

"We sympathize with what Mr. and Mrs. Lin may have to endure in their own country," said Daniel Solis, INS. district director for

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Bangkok, Thailand, in a letter to California congressmen who had inquired about the case. "However, parole should not be used as a response to implied threats and/or intimidations of a particular country and what it may or may not do to its citizens if they do not follow government policies."

But Smith stressed that the couple's concerns were well-founded. "The *New York Times* and numerous other sources have documented that penalties for unauthorized pregnancies in China range from daily verbal abuse, threats, heavy

fines, and destruction of property, to forced sterilization and even forced abortion," he said.

Smith concluded that a "compassion gap" exists in the Clinton Administration. "When a young boy accused of vandalism was threatened with a caning in Singapore, the President found time, quite properly, to plead for mercy," Smith noted. "But when a desperate young couple pleaded to save their child from the abortion clinic executioners, President Clinton wouldn't give them the time of day."