

**The Orville H. Schell Jr. Center for International Human Rights at Yale
Law School invites you to the Robert L. Bernstein Human Rights
Symposium**

DATE: April 22, 1998

The workshop will begin on Tuesday, April 28, at 1:30 p.m.; we'll meet in Yale Law School's Room 119, just off the main hallway.

The workshop is part of the first Robert L. Bernstein International Human Rights Symposium. The Symposium will have three main components: an invitation-only advocacy workshop, a large public lecture, delivered this year by Wei Jingsheng, and a reception and dinner to celebrate the selection of the three 1998 recipients of the Bernstein Fellowships in International Human Rights.

The 1:30 advocacy workshop represents a critical part of the day for us. We expect that the Bernstein Human Rights Symposium will become an annual tradition at the Law School, giving us a chance to step back from our day-to-day work and reflect on the broader issues of concern to the human rights community. Since Bob Bernstein devoted so much of his own energy to fighting for the release of Wei and other dissidents, we think it's important to take this opportunity to reflect on the circumstances leading up to Wei's release.

The workshop will be moderated by Harold Koh, and it will be essentially free-form; we don't expect any of you to come with prepared remarks, but ask only that you be prepared to discuss a range of questions relating to Wei's release. For instance: is Wei's release (and the recent release of Wang Dan) a human rights success story? Or is it a human rights failure, since Wei was released only after nearly two decades in prison? Were there points along the way at which the human rights community could have acted differently, and secured Wei's release earlier? How effective have human rights advocates been in shaping US government policy towards China? What are the pros and cons of focusing advocacy campaigns around the fate of particular individuals? What comes next for advocates of human rights in China, now that the two best-know dissidents are free?

We've prepared some background materials for student participants in the advocacy workshop. We know that most of you are already quite familiar with the issues discussed in the materials, which are designed to provide a general overview and some common

ground for participants less immersed in Chinese human rights issues. The materials were prepared by two of our students, Mike Dardzinski and Jonathan Zhu, and we hope you'll look through them if you have a chance.

Here's a schedule of the days's events:

Tuesday, April 28:

- 1:30 Advocacy workshop: Room 119, Yale Law School
- 4:00 Public lecture by Wei Jingsheng: "Human Rights in China: The Challenges Ahead." Formal announcement of Bernstein Fellowship recipients. Auditorium, Yale Law School.
- 6:00 Reception and dinner, Quinnipack Club, 221 Church Street, New Haven (four blocks from the law School; we'll provide you with directions on Tuesday).

For those of you coming from out of town, the Law School's street address is 127 Wall Street; trains leave New York's Grand Central Station for New Haven every hour at approximately five past the hour, and arrive about an hour and fifty minutes later. Taxis are generally plentiful at New Haven's Union Station. Please save your receipts; we will be happy to reimburse you for your travel expenses.

The workshop promises to be extremely valuable, and we're delighted that you'll be participating! Thanks again, and please call us if you have any questions.