

Karen Patterson's TAKING ON CHINA - Press Release

My name is Karen Patterson and I have just published a memoir, ***TAKING ON CHINA: How I Freed My Husband from Jail - A Memoir by Karen Patterson*** (2020). Even though my story took place 10 years ago, similar situations are occurring in China, for example with the 2 Michaels and the millions of Uyghurs who are being exterminated at a fast rate. My book helps raise awareness of what is happening in jail and what the families of Kovrig and Spavor are facing and going through. I also believe that my book and experiences can shed some light on the recent death sentencing of Canadian Xu Weihong.

I am available to further discuss either a story about my story and its relevance in the context of China / Canada etc. today, or as a guest with others who have similar stories. I think that the public would be interested to know the real China, and what it might be like for those behind bars with no chance of an unbiased trial. This was my experience. My goal is to shed light on what is happening in China from a Canadian's personal experience and perspective.

Synopsis:

In 2010, Karen Patterson's life is turned upside down. The Canadian is living in Beijing, China, with her family when her husband, Chinese artist Wu Yuren, disappears. Wu and other artists had been protesting against the government of the People's Republic of China and its lack of regard for human rights. In Karen's search for Wu, she discovers that he has been beaten and illegally incarcerated. This book, ***TAKING ON CHINA: How I Freed My Husband from Jail***, is about Karen's fight to get her husband released from the clutches of the Chinese state. Along the way, she realizes Wu's story is only one out of millions.

I was recently interviewed about my book in relation to Canada and China relations:

1. CHED 660 hosted by J'Lyn Nye on Thursday June 25th @2:35 pm - producer Chris Brentlinger-Grant.
2. CBC's HOMESTRETCH hosted Doug Dirks on Friday July 24th @ 3:30 pm - producer Kim Johnson.
3. CHQR 770 Morning Show hosted by Danielle Smith on Friday July 31st @ 10:35 am (<https://globalnews.ca/national/program/danielle-smith/>, I come in at 3.40 min) - producer Jacqueline Sinnett.
4. CKOM 650 Afternoon show hosted by John Gormley on Monday August 10th @ 12:05 pm - (<https://www.ckom.com/show-captures/?fbclid=IwAR36voyPu7e4vcseqZxQQNrfT8ZzefOlucre7lX528UbsZbNZSdHwa-6qcs>) - producer Taylor MacPherson
5. CHED 630 Morning show hosted by Shaye Ganem and Chelsea Bird on Wed August 12th at 7:35 am - Producer Brad Wisker

Please see the following recent news articles regarding my book and story in relation to Canada / China relations:

1. <https://nationalpost.com/news/no-room-for-soft-right-now-canadian-woman-whose-husband-was-detained-in-china-offers-the-hard-lessons-she-learned>
2. <https://calgaryherald.com/entertainment/local-arts/calgary-author-overcame-trauma-to-pen-memoir-about-her-battle-to-free-her-husband-from-chinese-detainment>

Endorsements for Story/Book:

"The artist Wu Yuren found out that China has little tolerance for dissent – and no justice in its courts. Many before and after have made similar, painful discoveries. Not all of these cases make it into the public realm; many acts of defiance are known only to those who suffer, and their families. That's why it's important the stories of people like Wu Yuren are told. The world must know about the courage shown by the few who dare stand up to China's repressive government, and the sacrifices made by their family and friends who seek to free them. Karen Patterson's book about her attempts to get her husband's release is not just about the pain experienced by one family, but a window onto a country where freedom is no one's right."

- **Michael Bristow, Asia-Pacific editor for the BBC World Service**

"Karen Patterson's story is one of bravery and resistance, a one-woman struggle against the repressive and Orwellian Chinese state. Anyone who met Karen was inspired by her battle to keep her family together, and to keep her husband Wu Yuren's case in the public eye after he disappeared into the regime's prisons. Taking on China is an important first-person account of Karen's ultimately successful fight."

- **Mark MacKinnon, Senior International Correspondent, The Globe and Mail**

"One of the best things about doing consular work, which means helping Canadians in distress, is the opportunity to learn from how people react in the face of enormous challenges. Karen Patterson is an exceptional teacher. Her courage, unwavering loyalty, fierce intelligence, and fearless determination—which shine through the pages of her book—offered me an example I will never forget. May we all be so lucky as to have a friend like her."

- **David Mulroney, Canadian Ambassador to China, 2009-2012**

"What terror strikes a wife and mother when her husband and father of her infant is thrown in jail without trial for nothing more than protesting the closure of his art studio?"

Such dread, fear and confusion - the stuff of dystopian nightmares from Orwell's pen – we could only imagine until now.

Canadian Karen Patterson's book 'Taking on China' reveals not only her frantic search of local police stations to find out where husband and Chinese artist Wu Yuren was being detained but also her emotional struggle and long bitter fight with a ruthless authoritarian state apparatus to set him free.

Her book shines a light on the plight of thousands of Chinese who take on the authorities in the name of justice and human rights to free loved ones wrongly detained. Few succeed and fewer still have the luck of a different nationality to tell the world."

- **Peter Simpson, Editor/Journalist**

"This story is more than inspiring. It's a heartfelt call to action, proof that even in China one person's relentless pursuit of justice can make a difference. To follow Karen step by step as she fights to free her unjustly accused artist husband from prison is to discover just how cruel and random the Chinese justice system can be to its own people. And how necessary it is to stand up for them, as Karen did, whenever we can."

- **Gillian Steward, Columnist, Toronto Star**