

Comment by Michael C H Jones:

I have deliberately refrained from commenting on the reaction of the Communist Party of China through its PRC Government in Beijing since my original strong support for Professor Liu Xiaobo being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in early October 2010, prior to my 9 city visit to China that month.

The reason is simply that I hoped reason and commonsense would win out in the internal disputations within the higher levels of Communist Party of China. However as Kevin Rudd is alleged have said "Hu Jintao is not Jiang Zemin". Hitler's Germany 1936 and Hu's China 2010 is not a good look either internationally or domestically - it will never be erased from history.

The Great Leader Deng Xiaoping claimed that Tiananmen Square and the "repression" of June 1989 gave the PRC breathing space of 20 years. Obviously the lessons have not been learnt and the new generation of Communist leaders are destined to loose their birthright.

Symbolism is a mighty weapon even against the most entrenched power elites. Professor Liu Xiaobo is now that symbol. It could have been so different if only the CPC had truly understood the meaning of those years of optimism in the late 1980s - they had a chance and they have blown it.