

The Rise of China's labour movement

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China's economic miracle over the last 35 years

GDP:

- 1980: US\$ 454.5 billion
- 2014: US\$ 63.64 trillion

❖ 140 times

Foreign Exchange Reserves:

- 1980: US\$ 1.3 billion
- 2015: US\$ 4 trillion

❖ nearly 4000 times

WHERE did the money go?



He Quanguai, gold miner

After working in a gold mine for seven years, He ended up with **Pneumoconiosis**

No compensation

No income

No medical insurance



He's wife, Mi Shixiu has to take care of him and the rest of their family.



Rushed to the
hospital only when
he
CAN'T BREATHE



He made it through
THIS TIME

MEMO NO. _____ DATE _____

MEMO NO. _____ DATE _____

2004-2012年全村死云名单

何进全	程建海	张凡东	赵后春
何进升	徐文士	耳元明	赵后东 去: 2013.7月
吴教安	晏显军	李龙政	华从洪 去: 2013.3月
何进贵	李更裁	张荣湖	杨得根 去: 2014.11月
钱吉知	孙连宝	何明红	张绍荣 去: 2014.2月
陈守忠	李叶林	石永生	张凡应 去: 2014.6月 40岁
李立林	李从兵	徐立成	远长义 去: 2014.12月
曹家义	厚发学 去: 2012.12.10号		
元大人	宋登发 去: 2012.12.13号	徐立青 丰积村	
王义银	程领奎 去: 2011.54岁	邹克银 丰积村	
张建兵	魏付林 去: 2013.8.52岁	邹克军 丰积村	
金明册	文良贵 去: 2013.9.31岁	柴先成 竹管 38岁	
金明学	李善忠 去: 2013.9.34岁	王得山 竹管河 40岁	
金明学	徐仁兰 去: 2013.9.48岁	杜忍林 竹管河村 2014.7月20号	
陈胜进	褚世宝 去: 2013.12.41岁	李有生 鱼坑村 2014年12月	
柯大元	曹家兴 去: 2011.12月份	李立成 丰积村 2014年11月	
李更贵	夏西顺 去: 2013.11月份		
李立元	廖吉明 去: 2014.3月份		
孙连海	郑昌贵 去: 2013.11月份		

目前陕西尘肺病人离去合计: 41+1=42
靠近我们这边湖北: 所知: 11+2

He kept a record of 60 former workers in his village who had already died from pneumoconiosis



一个尘肺病家庭的爱与绝望

何全贵曾在秦岭山脉的非法金矿里做过七年矿工，挖掘号称“全中国最便宜的黄金”，之后遭受了十年的尘肺病折磨。一直在背后支撑他的是妻子米世秀。夫妻俩情比金坚，却依然难以击退病魔。何全贵屡次尝试自杀，屡次被救回。尘肺病的阴影笼罩整个家庭。



摄影报道 | 沈绮颖
出品 | 腾讯网新闻中心

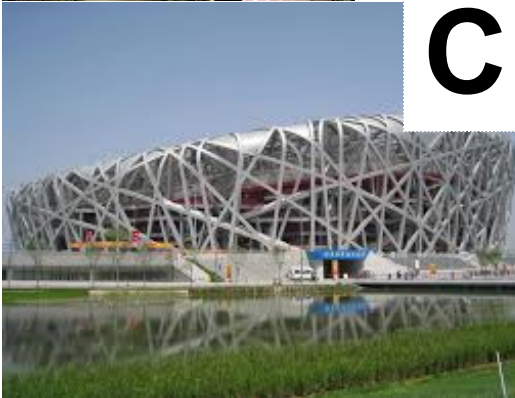
He died on 1 August
2015

Now he became
Number 61

He was 41 years old



China's Miracle



He and his 60 co-workers **contributed**
to this miracle BUT they clearly have
not benefited from it

WHERE did the money go?



中国高速
www.cngaosu.com



What about the
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS
who built all this infrastructure?



Mr. Wang
Subcontractor for transmission line
construction project in rural Sichuan
province

Date: March - December, 2014

Number of workers: 120

Budget: 14 million yuan

Subcontract cost: 7 million yuan

After ten months of hard work, the project
was nearly finished

But the main contractor still kept 65% of the
agreed seven million



The workers demanded payment of their salary but Mr. Wang does not have the money

He drowned himself in the Yangtze River



Mr. Yu, sewer construction subcontractor

Government rural sewer construction project in Suzhou, Jiangsu province

Date: March 2013 - Jan 2014

Local government budget: unknown
Main contractor orally agreed: **28 yuan** per metre

Number of workers: **60**

At the end of the project, Mr. Yu was told by the main contractor that he will only get **15 yuan** per metre

Not able to pay his workers as promised, Mr. Yu committed suicide



Mrs. Zhou Xiuyun, wife of a carpenter

Feb - Dec, 2014, her husband was in charge of a team of **12 carpenters** working in Taiyuan, provincial capital Shanxi

During those ten months, they received money from time to time **only enough for food**

On 13 Dec, the carpenters went to the main contractor demanding the settlement of their salary



Her husband was **taken** to the local police station

Zhou tried to **stop** the police



Police pushed her to the ground



She died



While she was dying under the police officer's foot, her husband was beaten up in the police station

They broke six of his ribs

Enough is ENOUGH



23 July 2015

Beijing

Construction workers
sitting in front of
Beijing Construction
Limited, demanding
unpaid salary



3 February 2015
Hebei province

Construction workers marched on the road a few days before Chinese New Year demanding unpaid salary



@钟情贝贝

weibo.com/u/2515825917



Labour disputes become **conflicts** between the local government and the workers



Left: The architect's vision

Right: Phase one of the project, the bus terminal





26 May 2015
Guiyang
southwest China

Workers blocked
road demanding
unpaid salary

Giubao Bridge on
Qiantang river, the
pride of Hangzhou,
Zhejiang province





21 July 2015

Workers blocked
the road
demanding
unpaid salary

@wangShijUn3107598890
weibo.com/u/3107598890

Teachers



17 November
2014,
Zhaodong,
Heilongjiang
province

8,000 teachers
went on strike for
better pay and
social security
in arrears

On the third day
of the strike, the
local government
agreed to
increase the
teachers' salary



24 November
2014,
Harbin,
Heilongjiang
province

6,000 teachers
went on strike
with the same
demands



23 December
2014,
Ma'anshan
Anhui province

Over 1,000
teachers went on
strike demanding
a **pay raise**



A representative was **taken** away by the police

More teachers joined the protest

Police **released** the representative.

Factory workers



9 June 2015

State-owned
Zhuzhou Chemical in
Hunan province

Government decided to
bankrupt the company

Workers rejected the
compensation plan
passed by the unelected
"Works Council"

On the day that the
"Works Council" held its
meeting, workers
marched toward the
company headquarters



Breaking through
the police
barricade



@沐阳9280
weibo.com/u/1768501542

No more fear



Arrival



Getting ready

@用户5616498878
weibo.com/u/5616498878



Break in



First time
attending "Works
Council" meeting

 @用户rpyoezwo2s
weibo.com/u/1003268214



8 July 2015
FURI electronics factory
Shenzhen

Machinery was
gradually being
removed

Workers realized that
the factory will be shut
down

But the management
had never talked to the
workers about their plan



So, the workers decided to go on strike

Collective bargaining requests

1. The company shall compensate the workers for **relocation** in accordance with the Labour Law.
2. The company shall compensate the workers for **overtime** hours.
3. The company shall pay **social security contributions** to the workers.



Around
the clock
picket

@迈锐光电工友维权
weibo.com/u/5643256683



On social media
with her
smartphone

@维权20157
weibo.com/u/5643932138

Eight days after, the workers decided to bring the case to the local labour arbitration committee

They are now awaiting the outcome



16 March 2015
Junya Optical factory
Shenzhen

5,000 workers **rejected**
the management's pay
offer and went on strike



Spreading the news
on social media
using smartphones



Again, labour dispute become a **conflict** between government and workers



But,
fear no more

2015-03-20 16:35 @地球引力2020
weibo.com/u/5380704215

Sanitation workers



21 August 2014,
Guangzhou
Guangdong province

Over 200 sanitation
workers went on strike
demanding formal
labour contracts



Local media
covered the
strike



A local **labour NGO** facilitated strategy meetings



And helped
workers elect their
own
representatives



Voting



Go for
bargaining



Waiting for the results of **collective bargaining**



Police were quite civilized

@大兔纸啦啦啦
weibo.com/prsallison



Solidarity
from local
residents

@云泥天渊_晓勋
weibo.com/u/2214074455



They got their
labour contract



Demanding information from the local government about the sanitation subcontracting **budget**

All the above information
and photographs are from
either **social media** or
official media inside
China

The new reality:

- ◆ The workers' movement in China has been **depoliticized**
- ◆ Workers are **no longer afraid** of the government
- ◆ The government is not as afraid of **organized workers** as it was before
- ◆ **Social media** has created a new space for the workers' movement to grow and develop

Our strategy:

- ◆ Using collective bargaining to improve labour rights and to solve labour disputes
- ◆ Electing worker representatives in workplace trade unions during the collective bargaining process and become part of the ACFTU
- ◆ Training trade union leaders
- ◆ Re-building China's trade union

Looking in the future:

The organized Chinese working class needs a **political ally**

The Chinese Communist Party needs a **political solution** to rebuild its legitimacy

A strong trade union with hundreds of million of members, a trade union that is willing and able to represent workers to bargain for their rights and benefits,

the new ACFTU which will be running by the workers, can help turn the

Chinese Communist Party

into a

Social Democratic Party

**The rise of China's labour
movement
will be the rise of
International Social Democracy**