



Global Nonviolent Action Database

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Chinese Migrant Workers Protest for Equal Civil Rights (2011)

Time period notes: The protest happened on 11 June 2011, and lasted until 1am on 12 June 2011.

June 11

2011

to: June 12

2011

Country: China

Location City/State/Province: Xintang/Guangzhou

Location Description: Area that is populated by a majority of migrant workers

Goals:

To gain equal treatment to urban-born Chinese

Methods

Methods in 1st segment:

- 001. Public speeches
- 038. Marches
- 039. Parades

Methods in 2nd segment:

- 001. Public speeches
- 038. Marches
- 039. Parades

Methods in 3rd segment:

- 001. Public speeches
- 038. Marches
- 039. Parades

Methods in 4th segment:

- 001. Public speeches
- 038. Marches
- 039. Parades

Methods in 5th segment:

- 001. Public speeches

- 038. Marches
- 039. Parades

Methods in 6th segment:

- 001. Public speeches
- 038. Marches
- 039. Parades

Classifications

Classification:

Change

Cluster:

Economic Justice

National/Ethnic Identity

Group characterization:

- Migrant Workers are classified as a lower caste of people officially in China and so they were looking to have equal civil rights

Leaders, partners, allies, elites

Leaders:

Not Known

Partners:

None

External allies:

None

Involvement of social elites:

None

Joining/exiting order of social groups

Groups in 1st Segment:

- Migrant Workers

Groups in 2nd Segment:

Groups in 3rd Segment:

Groups in 4th Segment:

Groups in 5th Segment:

Groups in 6th Segment:

Segment Length: 3 hours

Opponent, Opponent Responses, and Violence

Opponents:

Chinese Government, [Chinese Security Forces]

Nonviolent responses of opponent:

None

Campaigner violence:

Rioting which was due to escalation of repressive violence on the part of Chinese Security Forces

Repressive Violence:

Live Ammunition, Tear Gas, Riot Soldiers, Tanks

Success Outcome

Success in achieving specific demands/goals:

1 point out of 6 points

Survival:

0 points out of 1 point

Growth:

1 point out of 3 points

Notes on outcomes:

State-run TV officially stated that the conditions that migrant workers live in is terrible but that no injuries occurred on either side.

spersed the protesters via bullets, tear gas, and beatings. This led to rioting and violence between a small minority of protestors and the security forces.

What had initially begun as a nonviolent protest to demonstrate unity evolved into a massive confrontation with most protestors attempting to continue a nonviolent protest while the security forces shot and beat them. Protestors estimate security forces arrested thousands of people, but the official statistics report 150 arrests. Additionally, security forces injured over 100 people who required medical attention. At 1:00 am on June 12, security forces drove armored tanks into the city for policing and security purposes.

The protest ended in the early morning of 12 June, and the government began to make more arrests. Chinese Central Television (CCTV), the official state channel stated there had been no beatings and the subsequent riots were due to the propagation of misinformation.

Following the event, the government stated no one had been injured on either side and barred further reporting throughout the region. Additionally, they warned that the state would put to death anyone they accused of advocating against the state.

This labor strike campaign only lasted two days and did not result in any changes to the Hukou system. However, the protest potentially influenced multiple labor strikes over the following decade. A database of these protests exists on the [China Labour Bulletin Strike map](#) [2].

Research Notes

Influences:

Not Known

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Additional Notes:

This protest was near the start of several Labor protests which have continued to grow over the last decade in China

Name of researcher, and date dd/mm/yyyy:

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Links:

[1] <https://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/category/pcs-tags/mainly-or-initiated-people-color>

[2] <https://maps.clb.org.hk/strikes/en>