Play the Game, Coventry 2009

China and Press Freedom: Still a Game of Cat and Mouse

Aidan White, General Secretary, International Federation of Journalists
The post-Olympics Environment

- Easing of obstacles to press freedom
- More official information
- Minor roll back of internet control
The Inside Story

- More push back over controls
- Corruption and poor Conditions
- Harassment continues: Shi Tao and Hu Jia
Targeting Foreign Media

- Arbitrary actions against reporters from Tibet to Tiananmen Square
- Blockade of Sichuan, May 2009
- Monitoring: Foreign Correspondents Club of China, IFJ
Internet: Setting limits

• Filtering access to sites and content

• Massive monitoring force

• Use of blogs to drown out dissent
Looking Forward

- More official investment in media
- Opportunities for dialogue
- New challenges to party and state control – Charter 08
Charter 08

Freedom of Expression

“We should make freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and academic freedom universal, thereby guaranteeing that citizens can be informed and can exercise their right of political supervision.”
“These freedoms should be upheld by a press law that abolishes political restrictions on the press.

“The provision in the current Criminal Law that refers to “the crime of incitement to subvert state power” must be abolished.

“We should end the practice of viewing words as crimes.”