IR 2008 Update: Security in Beijing 2008 and Beyond[1]

In the lead-up to the 2008 Olympics, HRIC has been monitoring key aspects of preparations for the Beijing Games, including sponsorships, venue construction and the Chinese government's commitments as host of the Games. This update focuses on security preparations for the Olympics, with an emphasis on the use of advanced technology to secure Beijing and the Games. It also examines human rights concerns raised by the installation of this sophisticated security apparatus. Finally, this update explores the role of international corporations in security preparations, and presents available information about contracts that have already been reached.

SECURITY AT THE OLYMPICS

Cities that host the Olympics attract international attention, increased business, employment and tourism. With these benefits, however, comes a significant security burden on host cities; venues and athletes have in the past been targets of terrorism,[2] and government expenditure on security has grown exponentially over the past several decades. In Athens 2004, the first Summer Games to take place after the September 11 attacks, some 70,000 security personnel were deployed, and over $1.8 billion was spent on security and operations, well above the $122 million estimated in the Greek bid.[3] The security budget in Beijing, though not public, is estimated to be even higher.

The rise in security costs corresponds with the increasing sophistication of the technology and tactics used to deter, detect and respond to incidents. Athens incorporated a vast surveillance system, including barcode scanners and ID cards, biometric fingerprint cards and a vast computer surveillance network with hidden cameras and microphones.[4] The Beijing Games are expected to incorporate and build on those measures.

SECURITY IN BEIJING 2008

As host for the 2008 Games, the Chinese government promises a "green, high-tech, people's Olympics."[5] In addition to massive venue construction projects and an overhaul of public transportation systems, Beijing is instituting a vast and sophisticated security apparatus that has attracted foreign corporations eager to deliver the latest technology.[6]

In early 2005, Qiang Wei, Beijing's deputy Party secretary, unveiled the city's Olympics security plan. He noted that Beijing would use the most current technology in its comprehensive air, land and sea security networks,[7] including detailed anti-terrorist and anti-riot strategies,[8] as well as extensive surveillance networks. Beijing police already operate an integrated city-wide network of more than 90,000 cameras capable of monitoring traffic and tracking individuals; by 2008, this network will incorporate additional contingents of "anti-terrorism" cameras placed in high-end hotels.[9] The physical forces securing the Beijing Games will also be significant, involving almost all of the city's security organs, including units trained specifically for 2008, and even drivers of subway trains, buses and taxis.[10]

Beijing also signed a cooperation agreement with the Greek Security Studies Center (KEMEA) in 2005, beginning with a transfer of technical experience and know-how that Athens security teams gained during the 2004 Games.[11] The agreement has included seminars from Greek security experts, who had previously received advice from countries such as the United States and Great Britain.[12] Beijing itself has already held an "Olympic Security: Preparedness and Response" symposium attended by more than 30 experts from the U.S. and China.[13]

More than 450 Olympics technology projects are currently planned or have already been implemented,[14] and many of them are likely to include or build on systems similar to those in place during the Athens Games.[15] Much of this technology is being sold to Beijing by foreign companies based in Europe and North America, but will be operated by the city and the government during—and after—the Games.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS

While instituting important security measures, governments must also abide by their human rights obligations, including the right to free expression and to liberty and security of person. While human rights obligations can be restricted for legitimate security reasons, concerns arise where countries instituting major security systems have a record of undermining human rights and violating human rights obligations. Potential human rights concerns in the context of the Beijing Games in 2008 include:

· Misuse of the security apparatus;
· The tensions security needs may present to the protection of other international human rights; and
· Post-Olympics use of the apparatus installed for the Games.

MISUSE OF THE SECURITY APPARATUS DURING THE GAMES

In Beijing, the security apparatus for the Games will involve nearly all security organizations city-wide, including public security, national security and armed police.[16] Chinese authorities have a documented history of detaining journalists, lawyers, religious practitioners and activists simply for the peaceful expression of their opinions and beliefs.[17] The imprisonment of many of these individuals is often justified on the basis of national security or on allegations of passing information considered to be "state secrets."[18]

In a system where suppression of individuals critical of government policy is not unusual, there is a real possibility that the institution of a new and comprehensive security apparatus capable of monitoring specific individuals may further restrict human rights and free expression. Concern that an ostensibly neutral technology could be misused to silence dissent is bolstered by past incidents in China where technology has been used to restrict human rights.

Those examples include the use of Internet and e-mail surveillance to detain and imprison journalists and Internet activists on the basis of e-mails sent or essays posted in Internet chat rooms.[19] Other past examples include the use of a closed circuit television network along China's National Railway network, which has reportedly allowed Public Security

Bureau (PSB) officers to compare the faces of people traveling by train against a database and apprehend suspected criminals within a week.[20] The PSB credits these networks with a fairly high detention rate, but other countries using similar technology have reported very few actual arrests per camera installation, suggesting a subjective definition of "suspected criminals."[21]

The detention of individuals inside China in the run up to and during the Olympics must be monitored, and the use of advanced technology in identifying, tracking and detaining individuals must be carefully examined to ensure that security measures are not deployed in a way that violates human rights.

TENSIONS BETWEEN SECURITY REQUIREMENTS AND THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Debates over how far governments may go to ensure security have garnered a tremendous amount of attention in light of the war on terrorism in the U.S. and Europe. The steps that a government takes on security issues may develop tension with its human rights obligations. International law requires a government to specifically explain how and why rights will be restrained for security reasons. China's invocation of security in arresting and detaining dissidents generally fails to provide such explanations. The lack of adequate transparency and accountability in Chinese legal and judicial institutions make politically motivated detentions and imprisonments all the more serious.

Cases of individuals detained for national security and "state secrets" crimes must be specifically examined, and where those detentions appear politically motivated, international pressure must be brought to bear on the Chinese government to provide unconditional releases.

POST-OLYMPICS USE OF THE GAMES APPARATUS

After the athletes, spectator, journalists and vendors leave Beijing at the end of the Olympics, the security apparatus installed for the Games will remain behind. In this day of increasingly sophisticated technology and data mining, governments must be scrutinized for how state-of-the-art technology originally implemented to protect athletes and spectators will be used after the Games are over. Athens set a precedent on the transfer of post-Olympic knowledge by approving a draft bill in June 2005 establishing a Security Studies Center to share knowledge gained from the Olympics with foreign governments.[22]

The potential misuse of a security apparatus for violating human rights and exporting that technical know-how to like-minded countries is of great concern when the government has an extended and ongoing record of such violations and misuse. The Beijing Games security apparatus therefore has a potentially evolving impact, and possible human rights violations resulting from it must continue to be monitored.

THE ROLE OF FOREIGN BUSINESSES

Corporations based in the U.S. and Europe have participated significantly in building the security and information frameworks

Police SWAT team demonstrates its skills at the launch of an Olympics security training program in April. Photo: Reuters

already in place in China, and in preparations for the Olympics. Their role raises questions regarding the responsibilities of businesses providing technology with a potentially negative human rights impact, and also of the governments that host those businesses.

FOREIGN BUSINESSES BUILDING THE SECURITY APPARATUS IN CHINA
Canada's Nortel Networks was one of the major corporations involved in developing China's Golden Shield Project, an elaborate surveillance network that allows local, regional and national police to access an extensive database of individual information in tandem with the tracking of online activities of individual Internet users.[23] Foreign companies also created much of the technology used to build China's Internet backbone, and sold software and technology used to monitor, restrict and control Internet use. Other companies, foreign and domestic, continue to offer sophisticated technology services to various government branches.

The biennial China Police Exhibition, held most recently in May 2006, provides an opportunity for companies to showcase and sell their software, hardware and services to China's police and other security forces.[24] Most of the security technology procured for Olympics venues and other projects in China was developed and sold by European and North American companies. (More information on the Exhibition can be found in the sidebar to this article.)

THE HUMAN RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITIES OF BUSINESSES
Most of the technology sold to private and public entities in China has legitimate security or other purposes, but also has the potential to be used directly or indirectly to monitor and control electronic communication and access to information, locate and arrest dissidents, create massive databases of personal information and suppress peaceful protest.

The technologies that have this potential impact on human rights include products ranging from closed-caption cameras and facial recognition technology[25] to second-generation smart cards[26] and extensive databases replete with personal information. Many of these technologies can be employed in tandem for a chilling impact on human rights. China already has sizeable databases of information on its citizens; so far this year, the PSB has announced that nearly every province in China has a local fingerprint database,[27] and that a nation-wide database contains personal information on nearly 96 percent of the country's population.[28]

Whereas States are primarily responsible for protecting the human rights of their citizens, corporations and businesses also have human rights responsibilities. Businesses must respect all human rights, and must also actively support certain rights over which they have control, such as labor rights. In addition, corporations cannot become complicit in state human rights violations.

HRIC actively monitors business practices in China, particularly in the run-up to the Olympics, and has also actively engaged the corporate sector on business human rights responsibilities, particularly in the information technology sector, building upon

China Police Exhibition 2006

The China Police Exhibition 2006[1] was held on May 24–26, 2006. Previous expos took place in 2004 and 2002. The Expo, billed as one of Asia-Pacific's most significant security expositions, is organized by China Promotion Ltd./CP Exhibition, a Hong Kong-based company that presents a variety of exhibitions in China and Vietnam.

The China Police Exhibition is held with the approval of the Ministry of Public Security. The 2006 Expo focused on "Olympic security" and "anti-terrorism," and showcased more than 300 companies from 15 countries.[2]

Building Beijing's "Air Police"
One of the Olympics contracts announced at the expo was the purchase of two 10/11 ton class EC 225 helicopters from American Eurocopter,[3] joining the 21 EC 225s already operating in China.

At the expo, Tao Junsheng, deputy director of the finance and equipment bureau of the Ministry of Public Security, also announced the purchase of four helicopters from AgustaWestland, a global helicopter design and manufacturing company based in Italy and Britain. The helicopters would join the Beijing "air police" police fleet in time for the Olympic games; in order to demonstrate its enthusiasm to be a part of the Olympic games, AgustaWestland agreed to give the fourth helicopter free of charge to the Beijing Public Security Bureau.

2006 Expo Exhibitors included:
· From the U.S.:
  · Groen Brothers Aviation Inc.
  · Guidance Software, Inc.
  · Homeland Security Strategies Inc.
  · Honeywell Specialty Materials
· From France:
  · Sagem Défense Sécurité
  · Madelin S. A.
· From Germany:
  · EADS

2006 Expo Exhibition topics included:
· Weapons, restraints and other items
  · Sniping rifle
  · Sub-machine gun
  · Riot grenade launcher
  · Blast stun grenade
· Protective equipment
· Transportation vehicles
  · Riot/EOD vehicle
  · Obstacle-removing vehicle
  · Prisoner transportation van
· Communication systems
  · Satellite communication equipment
  · Data and image transmission equipment
  · Encrypted communication equipment
· Forensic products

NOTES
1. For more information, see http://cpexhibition.com/police/.
2. http://en.ce.cn/main/photo-news/200605/25/t20060525_7095667.shtml.
3. American Eurocopter press release, May 25, 2006, http://www.eurocopterusa.com/Media/News/NewsDetail.asp?ID=346.

international standards including the *UN Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights.*

HOST GOVERNMENT CONTROLS
Many countries have export control licensing regulations for companies selling technologies with both civilian and military uses. In the U.S., exporters to China face roadblocks under the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for FY 1990–1991, Public Law 101-246, passed in response to the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. The law suspended export licenses for any crime control or detection instruments or equipment to China. While this law severely limits items for export to the Chinese military or police, many companies selling information and security technologies to China have demonstrated the use of their products for crime control.

The role of China's security network in arbitrarily detaining and imprisoning individuals suggests that existing controls are inadequate to prevent the misuse of exported technology. For this reason, it is necessary to explore the potential use of export controls to further restrict the outflow of technology used to suppress fundamental human rights.

Beijing 2008 Security Contracts

The following table provides an overview of technology security contracts that will be used in whole or in part in Olympic Games preparations. The upgrade of Beijing's security apparatus is potentially of great benefit to a country hosting an international event of this scale. However, the use of these technologies must be closely monitored, not only before and during the 2008 Games, but also in their post-Olympic use.

Company Name	Base Country	Area	Description
ECI Telecom[29]	Israel	Telecommunications	· ECI will provide an internal communications network for the Beijing subway system in anticipation of the Olympics. · The subway system will be supplied with optical transmissions to expand network capabilities for video monitoring, surveillance and safety. · The network will cover Line 1 and 2 (47 stations, 100km).
QuikTrak[30]	Australia	Security	· QuikTrack tracking modems are used in vehicles and home security systems. · QuikTrak won a $380M contract with its partner China Alarm Systems to install a tracking system throughout Beijing. · QuikTrak has also won a second contract for some 3 million tracking devices to cover Hubei Province. · QuikTrak will be able to use part of the military spectrum, resulting in longer ranging signals.
TNT	Denmark	Logistics	· TNT will provide RFID (radio frequency identification) technology.
QR Sciences Limited (QRS)[31]	Australia	Explosive detection	· QRS has signed a contract with the Chinese Institute of Atomic Energy (CIAE) to develop security technology. · QRS technology harnesses low frequency radio waves through proprietary software and hardware to identify the chemical structure or unique fingerprint of specific molecules.
Tranzcom China Security Networks Inc.[32]	Canada	Surveillance	· Tranzcom subsidiary Beijing Tranzcom Technology Co. Ltd. won the contract to install the video surveillance system in the Chaoyang Park Olympic Facility. · The installation will include 12 Tranzcom PT7 series cameras.
Verint Systems, Inc.[33]	U.S.	Software-based security solutions	· In March 2006, Verint received a multi-million dollar order to enhance the security of Beijing's critical infrastructure ahead of the 2008 Olympic Games. · The upgraded infrastructure is expected to enable security teams to view videos collected from sensitive areas around Beijing at central monitoring centers. · With integration into a range of other security and communications systems, the Verint solution is designed to enable security personnel to proactively detect threats before they escalate and to enhance the management of emergency situations. · The system enables government and commercial organizations to apply advanced content analytics to extract actionable intelligence from video, audio and other data.
Nokia[34]	Finland	telecommunications	· Nokia has joined Beijing JustTop Network Communication Co. Ltd., which is controlled by China Netcom, in the deployment of the Tetra networks in Beijing. · China Netcom and China Mobile are the communications service partners for the Beijing Olympics. · Tetra is one of two digital trunking systems approved for use by China's Ministry of Information Industry (MII). The system allows large groups of mobile users to share fewer radio frequencies.
American Eurocopter	U.S.	Transportation	· Provision of EC 225 helicopters to join Beijing's "air police" fleet.

NOTES

1. The principal drafters of this article were Shirley Hao and Elisabeth Wickeri. Research was contributed by Charlie McAteer.

2. Past incidents include the bombing of the Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta, Georgia on July 27, 1996, and the killing of the Israeli Olympic team during the 1972 Games held in Munich, West Germany. For more information, see "The Politics of the Olympics," *China Rights Forum,* No.1 2003, http://ir2008.org/article.php?sid=31.

3. Laura Cohn, "For London, What Price Olympic Security?" *Business Week,* August 15, 2005, http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/05_33/b3947076_mz054.htm.

4. Davenport, Coral, "Athens goes 'sci-fi' for Olympics security," *Christian Science Monitor,* August 12, 2004.

5. Beijing Olympic Action Plan, March 2002, http://olympic.bjinvest.gov.cn/english/plan/index.jsp.

6. Li Jing, "Beijing Unveils Security Plan for Olympics," *China Daily,* March 23 2005.

7. Ibid.

8. "Beijing highlights Olympic security," *CRI,* February 4, 2005, http://www.china.org.cn/english/sports/119814.htm.

9. "Beijing police plan network of 'anti-terror cameras' in hotels," *AP,* December 23, 2005, http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/theworld/2005/December/theworld_December654.xml&section=theworld&col=.

10. Li Jing, op cit.

11. "Greece, China close to cooperation agreement on Olympic security: minister," *Xinhua,* August 25, 2005, available at http://english.people.com.cn/200508/25/eng20050825_204498.html.

12. Lei Lei, "Previous hosts offer Olympic tips," *China Daily,* January 8 2006, http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2006-01/18/content_513263.htm.

13. William McGuire, "An Olympic Security Effort," *SecurityInfoWatch.com,* May 2, 2006, http://www.securityinfowatch.com/article/article.jsp?id=8098&siteSection=397.

14. "Beijing Plans High Tech Olympics," Queensland-China Council, *China News,* No. 8, 2004.

15. Li Jing, op cit.

16. Ibid.

17. For example, in 2005, the Chinese PEN Center documented 48 journalists and cyber-dissidents in detention. (Independent Chinese PEN Center, 2005, http://www.penchinese. net/en/wipc/wiplist.htm); the Congressional Executive Commission on China documented 24 arrests or detentions of journalists in 2005. (CECC Annual Report, 2005) In September 2005, HRIC recorded 46 people in prison for crimes related to labor activism. ("In Custody," *China Rights Forum,* No. 3, 2005, pp. 128–132) And, according to the All-China Lawyers Association, since 1997 more than 400 defense attorneys have been detained on charges of assisting in the fabrication of evidence. (See Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, *U.S. State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2004: China,* February 2005, U.S. Department of State, http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41640.htm) Finally, more than 10,000 petitioners were reportedly detained by Beijing police during security crackdowns in advance of official meetings during 2005. (Amnesty International Annual Report 2005, China Entry, http://www.amnestyusa.org/countries/china/document.do?id=ar&yr=2005).

18. Journalist Shi Tao was detained in 2004 for "illegally providing state secrets overseas" and sentenced to 10 years in prison after sending notes overseas through his private e-mail account. Lawyer Zheng Enchong was charged with the same crime while advising Shanghai families in a politically sensitive law suit against a property developer. And in November 2003, democracy activist He Depu was sentenced to eight years in prison for "incitement to subvert state power" on the basis of his participation in an open letter written to the 16th Party Congress that was signed by 192 Chinese political dissidents, many of whom were also detained at that time. For more information on these cases, see HRIC's Web sites at www.hrichina.org and www.ir2008.org.

19. In April 2006, Wang Xiaoning was imprisoned for 10 years based on essays distributed through e-mail and Yahoo! Groups. The articles advocated democratic reform and a multi-party system.

20. Rights and Democracy, *China's Golden Shield: Corporations and the Development of Surveillance Technology in the People's Republic of China,* 2001, http://www.ichrdd.ca/english/commdoc/publications/globalization/goldenShieldEng.html.

21. Ibid.

22. "Cabinet approves public order ministry bill for using Olympic security expertise," Athens News Agency, June 8 2005, http://www.greekembassy.org/embassy/content/en/Article.aspx?office=1&folder=844&article=15271.

23. Rights and Democracy, op cit. Nortel is also providing a digital wireless communications network for the high-altitude Qinghai-Tibet Railway, introducing high-tech surveillance tools to Tibet.

24. For more information, see http://cpexhibition.com/police/.

25. Tang Bao, "Hi-Tech Security for 2008," *Beijing Review,* available at http://www.bjreview.com.cn/En-2005/05-19-e/china-1.htm.

26. Rights and Democracy, op cit.

27. "Fingerprint database proposed," *China Daily,* March 14 2006, http://www.china.org.cn/english/2006lh/161440.htm.

28. "Tingzhong lun zhongguo jianli gongan xinxi ziyuanku," *VOA News,* April 21, 2006, available at http://www.voanews.com/chinese/m2006-04-21-voa66.cfm.

29. ECI Telecom, "ECI Telecom Chosen to Expand Beijing Subway's Communications Network for the 2008 Olympics," January 4, 2006, http://www.ecitele.com/news/2006/pr_04012006.asp.

30. *The Age,* "QuikTrak on Track," April 20, 2006, available at http://www.theage.com.au/news/business/quiktrak-on-track/2006/04/19/1145344154552.html; Ian Porter, "QuikTrak in second China security deal," *The Age,* December 19 2005, http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2005/12/18/1134840741698.html.

31. Government of Western Australia, "WA company wins security contract for Beijing Olympics," November 16, 2004, available at http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/media/media01-05.nsf/9dbd10dc05971ee348256a76000cc002/89a9aa8450ee82cf48256f4e00107d46?OpenDocument.

32. "Tranzcom awarded Olympic security contract," Tranzcom Press Release, July 7 2005, http://www.tranzcom.net/downloads/NR-070705.pdf.

33. Parthajit, "Verint solution to enhance security for Beijing Olympics," *DMAsia.*com, April 5, 2006, available at http://www.digitalmediaasia.com/default.asp?ArticleID=14655.

34. Li Weitao, "Motorola chasing Olympic gold," *China Daily*, March 20, 2005, http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-03/20/content_426486.htm.