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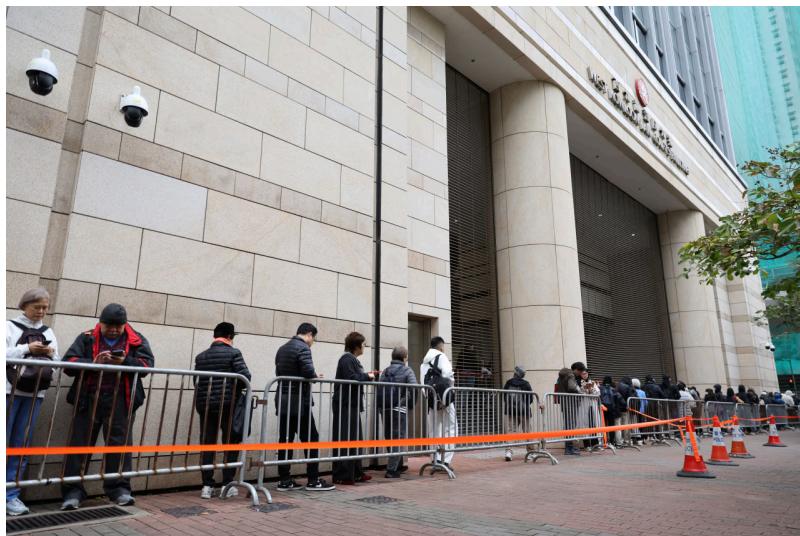
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# China's Communist Party Tortures Jimmy Lai

His cell lacks air conditioning and officials have denied him independent medical care to treat his deteriorating health.

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People line up to attend a hearing for Jimmy Lai in Hong Kong, Jan. 12. MAY JAMES/ASSOCIATED PRESS

China's tormenting treatment of Jimmy Lai is even worse than described in "[How China Abuses Jimmy Lai](#)" (Review & Outlook, Jan. 17). While Beijing pledged to uphold the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, authorities in Mr. Lai's case have violated the rights enshrined in basic international norms, including dignity, freedom of expression and other rights in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. His cell lacks air conditioning and is sweltering much of the year. Officials have denied him independent medical care to treat his deteriorating health.

According to the Hudson Institute, Hong Kong officials created the false picture of Mr. Lai as the dangerous subversive they wanted him to seem. "Each day in court of the two-year trial, they transported him in a police van with a motorcade. Snipers were

stationed on top of bridges and rooftops all along the route. Security lined the streets and police barracked sidewalks. Lai was kept shackled."

They've subjected Mr. Lai to solitary confinement for years. In 2024, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found that his detention was unlawful and arbitrary. It stated, "Prolonged solitary confinement in excess of 15 days . . . may amount to torture."

Hong Kong despots and their Beijing overlords are torturing Mr. Lai.

**Charles D. Eden**

*Atlanta*

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