

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, May 19, 2012 6:39 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Blind Chinese activist arrives in United States (Reuters)

He made aand is headed to NYU

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Saturday, May 19, 2012 06:35 PM
To: NEWS-China; NEWS-DRL; NEWS-EAP; NEWS-L; NEWS-Mahogany
Subject: Blind Chinese activist arrives in United States (Reuters)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blind Chinese dissident Chen Guangcheng arrived in the United States May 19 after China allowed him to leave a hospital in Beijing in a move that could signal the end of a diplomatic standoff between the two countries.

A United Airlines plane carrying Chen, his wife and two children, landed in at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey shortly after 6 p.m. (2200 GMT) May 19, said a Reuters witness on board the flight.

He was then due to travel to New York University in Manhattan's Greenwich Village neighborhood. Chen, one of China's most prominent dissidents, is going to study as a fellow at the NYU School of Law, the institution said on Saturday.

A senior White House official, Ben Rhodes of the National Security Council, praised the diplomacy that allowed Chen to come to the United States.

"We welcome this development and the fact that he will be able to pursue a course of study here in the United States upon his arrival," he said during the Group of Eight summit the United States is hosting at Camp David, Maryland. "We are pleased that this was able to reach a resolution."

Chen's friend, Jiang Tianyong, cited the activist as saying that he and his family obtained their passports at the airport in Beijing hours before he boarded the flight.

"I'm obviously very happy," Jiang said. "When he boards the plane, he can finally say: 'I'm free.' At the same time, I feel a sense of regret because such a large country like China can't even tolerate a citizen like him to exist here."

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