



YAHOO!  
中国雅虎

in



# Background

- April 15, 1989 Protests begin in China about the movement from a Maoist Communist nation to a Socialist Market Economy.
- May 20, 1989 the Chinese government implements martial law, no further action is taken.
- June 4, 1989, the Chinese government uses its military force to clear the towns of protesting students using live fire, death toll is unknown and ranges from several hundred to thousands.

# **Causes of the events in the case**

- April 20, 2004 the Chinese government releases the "Number 11" document which states that all media should not report anything regarding the June 4th 1989 event, this comes just before the 15th anniversary of the event.
- April 20, 2004 Reporter Shi Tao sends an E-mail through his personal Yahoo! account the message contains a brief of the "Number 11" document and is sent to a website called "Asia Democracy Foundation".
- The Chinese government demands the personal information of the sender of the email from Yahoo! Hong Kong.
- Yahoo! complies and Shi Tao is subsequently arested and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

# Consequences

**Yahoo! gave sensitive information to the government and because of this Shi Tao was arrested and sentenced to 10 years in prison, all for sending an email.**

**Shi Tao believed that his personal email would remain just that - PERSONAL.**

**Yahoo! settled a lawsuit for an undisclosed amount in 2007. Damages were paid to family members and a fund was setup to provide help to other political dissident's.**



# Potential Solutions

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**Being that Yahoo! is based in Hong Kong and Hong Kong has a different judicial system than mainland China, they did not have to provide the Chinese government with the personal information of Mr. Shi Tao. Instead they could have complied with Hong Kong laws and kept his information private.**

# **Ethical Theories**

**Libertarianism - each person is free to live as she or he chooses without regulation of government or interference from others.**

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**Shi Tao believes this to be true, which is why he sent the message.**

# **Ethical Issues**

**Should Yahoo! be giving your personal information out to the government?**

**Does the government have the right to demand this information?**

**Does it matter if it is Chinese national security?**

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