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Chinese Dissident Sees Rights Improvement

BEIJING, June 7 (Reuters) — Dai Qing, a dissident journalist who was prevented from returning home last weekend, was allowed to fly to Beijing today and said the Government seemed to be improving its human rights record.

"The Chinese Government is slowly changing from a rigid, unchanging government into a more professional, law-abiding government," Ms. Dai said after her husband and daughter met her at the airport. "We should all welcome this. They have made some progress, and this should be recognized."

Ms. Dai, 51 years old, was imprisoned without charges for several months after the crackdown on democracy campaigners in 1989 and was suspended from her job at the Guangming Daily, one of the nation's Government-controlled papers. She left China on Dec. 22 for a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University.

Ms. Dai was delayed in Hong Kong last week after airline officials told her that the Beijing authorities had barred her from boarding a plane to China, where she had planned to spend her vacation. The move appeared to be intended to prevent her from being in China on Thursday, the third anniversary of the attack on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square.

On her arrival here today, she was searched by customs officials and then bundled into a car by five men who identified themselves as airport security workers.

A Hong Kong editor, who was not identified, is said to have intervened on her behalf with Prime Minister Li Peng.

Ms. Dai received attention last year during a visit to China by Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d. Agents abducted her for several days to prevent her from meeting with Baker aides.