

# **CHONGQING AFTER BO XILAI**

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*EAI Background Brief No. 742*

Date of Publication: 7 August 2012

## Executive Summary

1. From 18 to 22 June 2012, Chongqing held its fourth municipal party congress. This was the first major political event in Chongqing after the downfall of Bo Xilai (薄熙来), former party secretary of the southwestern metropolis.
2. The congress was delayed for about a month because the new party secretary, Zhang Dejiang (张德江), needed time to rewrite the political report on the achievements of Chongqing in the last five years.
3. In contrast to elsewhere in China where local party congresses usually review the work of the previous five years, Zhang Dejiang conducted a review of Chongqing in the past 15 years, a heavy task for a party secretary of three months.
4. In his political report, Zhang mentioned the triple incidents of Wang Lijun (王立军), the death of a British man (Neil Heywood), and Bo Xilai. In his description, Bo Xilai was no longer a suspect but a serious violator of party discipline.
5. Zhang did acknowledge Chongqing's "tangible achievements" in the past five years but quickly turned to its "great achievements" in the past 15 years, indicating that whatever achievements in the past five years were simply continuations of the previous 10 years.
6. He attributed the great achievements of the past 15 years to correct leadership of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the State Council, continuous efforts of successive party committees of Chongqing and the great efforts of the Chongqing people.
7. Subsequent to the congress, two promoters of the "singing red songs" program were no longer on the Standing Committee of Chongqing Municipal Party

Committee. He Shizhong (何事忠), former director of the propaganda department of Chongqing Party Committee, was replaced by Xu Hairong (徐海荣).

8. Xu Ming (徐鸣), Bo Xilai's confidant from the Ministry of Commerce, was also not in the new Standing Committee of Chongqing Municipal Party Committee. He had allegedly been responsible for the initial idea of singing red songs in Chongqing.
9. Zhang Dejiang also pointed out the problems of the previous five years, in particular with regard to law enforcement and abuse of power by top local leaders. He made pledges to follow the central leadership more closely in the future.
10. However, Zhang is unlikely to stay on in Chongqing beyond the 18th National Party Congress. It is not clear who will take over as the next party secretary of Chongqing and help to realize these ambitious objectives set by the new leadership of Chongqing.