

One Hundred Tenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Office of the Speaker

July 24, 2007

The Honorable Hu Jintao
President of the People's Republic of China
c/o Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
2300 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20008

Dear President Hu:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in obtaining the release of certain individuals imprisoned in China. It is my understanding that these individuals are prisoners of conscience and are imprisoned solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression guaranteed by the Chinese Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which has been signed by the Chinese government.

Attached is a selected list of prisoners and a brief description of their cases. I look forward to working with you and Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong on a positive outcome on the status of these individuals. Thank you for your consideration of my requests.

Sincerely,


NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI
LIST OF KEY PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN CHINA
SUBMITTED JULY 24, 2007

Shi Tao is a Chinese journalist serving a ten-year prison sentence for sending an email copy of a government order prohibiting Chinese media from recognizing the fifteenth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square protests to a New York-based democracy website. Shi Tao was convicted with email account information provided by Yahoo! China. His lawyer, Guo Guoting, was repeatedly harassed by the police in an effort to prevent him from representing Shi Tao.

Zhao Yan, a researcher for the *New York Times*, was formally arrested in October 2004 for “leaking state secrets to a foreigner” after the *New York Times* correctly predicted that former President Jiang Zemin would resign from his last official post. *The New York Times* and Mr. Zhao consistently maintained that he was not the source of the information. On June 1, 2005, when no evidence to sustain the state secrets charge had been found and Zhao’s time in detention had exceeded allowable limits, the government brought an unrelated fraud charge based on an alleged 2001 incident. On August 25, 2006, two months after his closed trial, the court dismissed the state secrets charge but convicted Mr. Zhao of fraud and sentenced him to a three-year term. During the case the authorities limited Mr. Zhao’s lawyers’ access to their client and to the prosecutor’s evidence and refused to hear the defense witnesses.

Chen Guangchen, a legal activist who tried to investigate reports in June 2005 that officials from Linyi, Shandong province had subjected thousands of people to forced abortions, midnight raids, beatings, and compulsory sterilization in order to meet the city’s population control target. Although central government officials agreed that the officials used illegal means, they rejected the class-action lawsuit Chen tried to file. Chen was tried on August 24, 2006, and sentenced to four years and three months for “damaging public property and gathering people to block traffic.” It has been reported that Mr. Chen, who is blind, is being severely beaten in jail and has gone on a hunger strike to protest the beatings.

Yan Zhengxue, a 63-year old prominent writer and painter, was arrested on October 18, 2006 after police raided his home in Jiaojiang, Zhejiang Province. On April 22, 2007, it was reported that he was convicted because of a conference he attended in the U.S. several years ago and three articles he wrote and published on a Chinese website critical of the Chinese government. His family is worried about his rapidly diminishing physical and mental health because of the harsh treatment in prison.

Pastor Zhang Rongliang is a Christian leader who was arrested in Zhengzhou City, Henan Province, in December 2004 and sentenced to seven and a half years in prison. Authorities charged him with forging a passport and illegally crossing the border in an effort to attend missions conferences. He had been beaten, detained, and harassed a number of times since his conversion to Christianity in 1969. He is reportedly in poor health and suffering from diabetes.

Chadrel Rinpoche is a 68-year old Abbot of the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery. In 1995, he was appointed by the Chinese government as Chairman of the Search Party Committee for the 11th Panchen Lama reincarnation. The 11th Panchen Lama went missing days after he was pronounced and later, Chadrel Rinpoche also mysteriously disappeared. In 1997, Chadrel Rinpoche was sentenced to six years in jail for “conspiring to split the country” and “disclosing state secrets.” In April 2003, it was reported that he was under house arrest in an isolated resort south of Dib military camp in Lhasa.