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PHYSICIANS for HUMAN RIGHTS



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July 24, 1995

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The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

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Dear President Clinton,

I am writing you on behalf of Physicians for Human Rights, an organization of more than 5,000 health professionals, scientists, and concerned citizens which uses the knowledge and skills of the medical and forensic sciences to investigate and prevent violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. On behalf of our members, I wish to express our deep concern for the American citizen, Harry Hongda Wu.

As you may know, Mr. Wu is the Executive Director of the Laogai Research Foundation, a reputable human rights organization based in California. Physicians for Human Rights has worked with Mr. Wu and with his organization for a number of years, and we can attest to Mr. Wu's dedication to the investigation and exposure of human rights violations in China. Mr. Wu was himself a longtime human rights activist in China and as a result spent 19 years as a political prisoner there. He is known for his pioneering work to publicize the conditions in Chinese forced labor, or "re-education" camps, and also for his investigation of alleged trafficking in human organs by government officials in China. Having worked over the years with those who have survived long-term imprisonment on account of their beliefs, Physicians for Human Rights is acutely sensitive to the extraordinary commitment that has led Mr. Wu back into China, time and again.

Mr. Wu was detained on June 19, 1995 by Chinese authorities as he entered Horgas in Xianjiang Province and crossed the border from Kazakhstan into China. He was traveling with a valid American passport and Chinese visa. Mr. Wu was held in incommunicado detention without charge until July 10, when he was permitted to receive a visit from the U.S. Consulate. It is widely believed that Mr. Wu will be charged with espionage, although formal charges have not yet been brought. Espionage is considered "counterrevolutionary" in China, and is potentially punishable by death. However, an internal judicial regulation issued on June 3, 1982 stipulates that "foreigners who commit crimes of counterrevolution" may, upon conviction, be leniently sentenced by the court to "expulsion from the country" and not have to serve time in prison.

AN ORGANIZATION
OF HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS,
SCIENTISTS AND
CONCERNED CITIZENS

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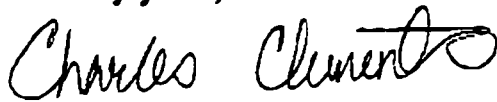
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It is of the utmost importance that Mr. Wu's plight be raised at the highest diplomatic levels as a matter of international concern. If the United States is to maintain its reputation for upholding the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it must stand up for its citizens when they seek to expose egregious violations of human rights.

We urge you to take all possible measures to see that Mr. Wu is released unconditionally as soon as possible, and look forward to your earliest reply in this grave matter.

Sincerely yours,



Charles Clements, M.D.
President

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~~John Doe~~