



*Lawyer Gao Zhisheng and Professor Sun Wenguang*

High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet  
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Dear High Commissioner Bachelet,

We, the undersigned, are a group of people with deep concerns about the human rights situation in China. We are grateful for your efforts to promote human rights during your current trip to China.

Today we are writing to you with urgency to ask that you make a direct inquiry into the fate of two prominent activists, Gao Zhisheng and Sun Wenguang, and demand their immediate release from captivity.

Mr. Gao Zhisheng is one of the most courageous human rights lawyers in China. Since 2005, he has been repeatedly detained, tortured and imprisoned by the Chinese government for promoting the rule of law in China, and for exercising his duties as an attorney in defense of human rights as guaranteed by Chinese law. Under house arrest, he was abducted on August 13, 2017; since that time, the authorities have refused to disclose his whereabouts or condition.

Professor Sun Wenguang, born in 1934, is one of the most respected veteran dissidents in China. On August 2, 2018, he was arrested by police who broke into his home in Jinan, Shandong Province, while giving an interview to Voice of America. His last words before he was taken away were: "I have my freedom of speech!" After being briefly released, he was again taken by police on August 15, 2018.

**Gao Zhisheng's family has not heard anything from him for four years and nine months, and Sun Wenguang has not been seen or heard from for three years and nine months. We ask that you make a direct inquiry into the circumstances of these two dissidents who are being held unlawfully, and that you demand their immediate, unconditional release.**

Freedom from enforced disappearance is a fundamental human right under the UN International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Mr. Gao and Mr. Sun's continued disappearance not only contravenes the UN's Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which the PRC is signator, but also violates the PRC's own constitution and laws.

As High Commissioner for Human Rights in the United Nations, we look to you to speak out where few others can, and to use your position and influence to fight for the rights of these political prisoners. We thank you in advance for your efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Geng He, USA, wife of Gao Zhisheng 耿和, 美国, 高智晟妻子

Chen Guangcheng, USA 陈光诚, 美国

Yan Jiaqi, USA Scholar 严家祺, 美国, 学者

Hu Ping, USA Writer 胡平, 美国, 作家

Wang Dan, USA, 王丹, 美国

Su Xiaokang, USA 苏晓康, 美国

Ako Tomoko, Japan, scholar 阿古智子, 日本学者

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Jean-Philippe Beja, France Professor 白夏, 法国, 教授

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Patricia Adams, Canada Executive Director, Probe International 加拿大“探索国际”执行主任

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Wang Juntao USA 王军涛，美国

Xia Yeliang, USA, scholar 夏业良，美国，学者

Bob Fu, USA, pastor 傅希秋，美国，牧师

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Jin Bianling, USA 金变玲，美国

Zhang Jing, USA 张菁, 美国

Su Yutong, Germany 苏雨桐, 德国

Fang Zheng, USA 方政, 美国

Zhao Xin, USA 赵昕, 美国

Sheng Xue, Canada 盛雪, 加拿大

Sun Liyong, Australia 孙立勇, 澳大利亚

Li Juan, Australia 李隽, 澳大利亚

Lin Shengliang, The Netherlands 林生亮, 荷兰

Wang Jingyu, The Netherlands 王靖渝, 荷兰

Li Fang, Finland 李方, 芬兰

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Yang Peng, USA 杨鹏, 美国

GAO Xu, USA 美国

Zhang Boli USA, Pastor 張伯笠, 美国, 牧师

Wu Zuolai USA, Scholar 吴祚来, 美国, 学者

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Meng Yuanxin, USA 孟元新, 美国

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Cui Yong, USA 崔永, 美国

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