



## FREEDOM NOW

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 13, 2004

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### **MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO CONDEMN VERDICT SENTENCING CHINESE DISSIDENT YANG JIANLI TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON**

**What:** Members of Congress will respond to the verdict of the Beijing Number 2 Intermediate People's Court sentencing Yang Jianli to 5 years in prison for espionage and illegal border crossing. Freedom Now will publicly release key documents in the case (until the sentence considered "state secrets" by the Chinese court) including the indictment and statements made in court by both Yang Jianli and his Chinese lawyer which demonstrate the spurious nature of the conviction.

**When: Thursday, May 13, 2004, 1:45-2:45 p.m.**

**Where: The Capitol, Room HC-7**

**Who: Rep. Christopher Cox (R-CA)**  
**Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA)**  
**Rep. Michael Capuano (D-MA)**  
**Christina Fu, Wife of Yang Jianli**  
**Jared Genser, President, Freedom Now & Legal Advisor to Yang's Family**

**Why:** Dr. Yang, a legal permanent resident of the United States, is the co-founder of the Foundation for China in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and a resident of Brookline, Mass. A veteran of Tiananmen Square student movement in 1989, he returned to China two years ago to visit political activists and laid-off workers and was detained by police at an airport in Kunming on April 26, 2002. He was held in solitary confinement for more than 14 months, denied access to his family and lawyer, reading material and outdoor activity and was interrogated more than 100 times.

Congressional resolutions calling for his release passed unanimously:

– **S.Res.184** (July 29, 2003, under unanimous consent)

– **H.Res.199** (June 25, 2003, on a vote of 412-0)

In addition, U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found that Dr. Yang was being held in violation of international law, in a decision issued on June 4, 2003.

Over the last month, in response to Dr. Yang refusing to fold his blanket, wear a prison-issue uniform, and respond to orders when addressed by his numerical code, prison authorities kept him handcuffed for one week in solitary confinement, denied him all access to reading materials and exercise, and also denied him access to his lawyer. When Dr. Yang was removed from solitary confinement, he remained handcuffed until his wrists began to bleed.

For more information about Dr. Yang, please visit [www.freedom-now.org](http://www.freedom-now.org) or [www.supportjianli.org](http://www.supportjianli.org).

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