

Aug-23-02 03:30pm From:House Policy Committee

+202-225-0931

T-436 P.002/002 F-372



House Policy Committee

Christopher Cox, Calif.
Chairman

August 23, 2002

Dermis Hastert, Ill.
Richard K. Armey, Tex.
Tom DeLay, Tex.
J.C. Watts, Okla.
Deborah Pryce, Ohio
Barbara Cubin, Wy.
Thomas M. Davis, Va.
Rob Portman, Ohio
John R. Thune, S. Dak.
Ernie Fletcher, Ky.
Ander Crenshaw, Fla.
Shelley Moore Capito, W. Va.
Jim DeMint, S.C.
Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Fla.
David Dreier, Calif.
Vito Fossella, N.Y.
Benjamin Gilman, N.Y.
Bob Goodlatte, Va.
Mark Green, Wisc.
Felix Grcci, N.Y.
Kenny Hulshof, Mo.
Henry Hyde, Ill.
Darrell Issa, Calif.
Brian Keras, In.
Joe Knollenberg, Mich.
Ron Lewis, Ky.
Jim Nussle, Iowa
Doug Ose, Calif.
Todd Platts, Penn.
Bob Schaffer, Colo.
John Shadegg, Ariz.
Nick Smith, Mich.
Cliff Stearns, Fla.
Bob Sump, Ariz.
John Sununu, N.H.
Billy Tauzin, La.
Bill Thomas, Calif.
Todd Tiahrt, Kans.
Pat Toomey, Penn.
David Vitter, La.
Dave Weldon, Fla.
Jerry Weller, Ill.
Roger Wicker, Miss.
Heather Wilson, N.M.
C.W. Bill Young, Fla.

The Honorable Richard Armitage
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear Deputy Secretary Armitage:

Since April 28, 2002, Yang Jianli, a U.S. permanent resident and Tiananmen Square demonstrator, has been imprisoned and incommunicado by PRC authorities. His whereabouts are unknown. The PRC has refused Christina Fu, Mr. Yang's wife and a U.S. citizen, entry to the PRC to visit her imprisoned husband.

In gross violation of both PRC and international law, Mr. Yang has remained in detention without formal charges being filed against him. I have been in constant communication with his family who are concerned about his well-being and are outraged at the PRC government's lack of transparency regarding his detention.

As you prepare to meet in Beijing with PRC officials, I urge you to include Mr. Yang among the top priority political prisoners being held by the PRC that the U.S. government wants released. Mr. Yang should at the minimum be charged with a crime, given a fair trial, and permitted to meet with his wife and U.S. government representatives.

As I wrote to President Bush on April 29 prior to his meeting with Vice President Hu Jintao, a resolution of this matter would be an indication of better U.S.-PRC relations. By releasing individuals imprisoned for expressing their support for democracy, it would send a message to the world that the next generation of PRC leadership is committed to engaging in true democratic reforms.

I urge you to press for Mr. Yang's release.

Sincerely,

Christopher Cox
Chairman