

09/25/2002 22:38 FAX 2026476947
09/26/2002 19:34 FAX

S

002
002

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2002

The Honorable Colin L. Powell
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to you regarding the case of Dr. Yang Jianli who, according to the information provided to us, has been detained virtually incommunicado since he traveled to the People's Republic of China nearly four months ago on April 26th. We understand that, under Chinese law, Dr. Yang's family should have been notified, within 24 hours of his arrest, of the charges pending against him; of his whereabouts; and should have been provided with access to defense counsel. However, to date, Dr. Yang's brother in the PRC, and his wife and two children in Brookline, Massachusetts have been denied any of the aforementioned information and have, therefore, only been able to ascertain that he is being held in Beijing.

We understand that Dr. Yang traveled to the PRC using false documents. Nevertheless, this does not justify the violations of international human rights norms by Chinese officials involved in this case.

The case of Dr. Yang must be viewed within the context of the arbitrary arrest and imprisonment in the PRC of American scholars over a year ago, as well as the recent detention in Hong Kong of human rights activist and former Chinese prisoner of conscience, Harry Wu, who was subsequently denied access into Hong Kong by Chinese authorities.

We believe that Dr. Yang's arrest was prompted by his pro-democracy activities both in the PRC and after having been exiled to the United States. This and other forms of harassment are routine tactics employed by Chinese authorities against all those whose activities pose an alternative to the oppressive apparatus maintained by Beijing.

Mr. Secretary, as the U.S. seeks to expand its relationship with the PRC, we must, however, take steps to address the human rights violations carried out by authorities of the PRC—both against their own population and, in particular, against U.S. citizens and residents.

With the summit between President Bush and Chinese leader Jiang Zemin fast approaching, we respectfully request your assistance and urge you to ensure that Dr. Yang's rights be immediately upheld and that he be released on humanitarian grounds given that his wife and children are in the U.S.

We appreciate your cooperation on this important issue.

Sincerely,

09/25/2002 22:39 FAX 2026478947
09/26/2002 10:55 FAX

5

003
003


Representative Ilana Ros-Lehtinen


Representative Barney Frank

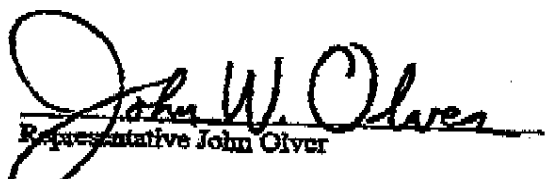

Representative Christopher Smith


Representative Tom Lantos

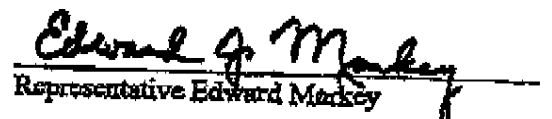

Representative Christopher Cox


Representative Constance Morella


Representative Frank Wolf

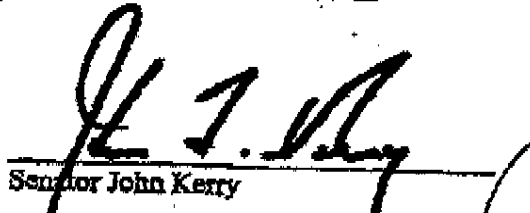

Representative John Oliver

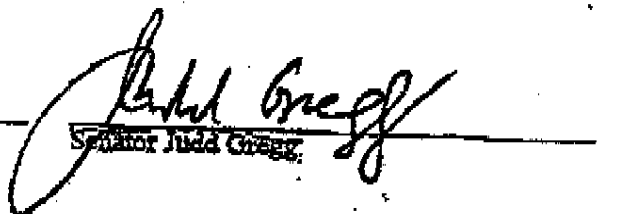

Representative Edward Royce


Representative Edward Markey


Representative Jim McGovern


Representative Stephen Lynch


Senator John Kerry


Senator Judd Gregg