

ALL SAINTS PARISH  
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BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS 02445-4299

October 1, 2002

The Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold  
The Episcopal Church Center  
815 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Bishop Griswold,

We are writing to ask for your support and assistance in a matter of great importance to All Saints Parish, Brookline, Massachusetts. On April 26, 2002, one of our parishioners, Dr. Yang Jianli, was detained in China on a trip to research the growing labor protests in that country. We have had no word from him since. Amnesty International recently added Dr. Yang's name to their "most urgent" action list as a prisoner of conscience.

Dr. Yang is an internationally-known human rights activist and scholar, and an important leader in the Chinese community. In 1989, when he was a graduate student in the United States, he returned home to China to participate in the student uprisings at Tiananmen Square. As a result, he was blacklisted and forbidden to return to China. After returning to the U.S., he founded The Foundation for China in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, which seeks to encourage research and dialogue about democratic transformation in China.

Dr. Yang completed a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in Mathematics, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in Political Economy (Kennedy School of Government). He has testified on numerous occasions before Congress on human rights issues in China. Like many other Chinese intellectuals, Dr. Yang believes in the right of Chinese dissidents to return to their homeland. Because he has been denied access to his homeland, he returned to China this spring with a false passport. In the course of researching labor unrest in China, he met with workers in Daqing and Liaoyang (northeastern China). He was stopped at the airport in Kunming and taken into police custody.

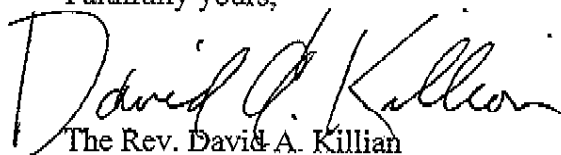
Dr. Yang and his family – which includes his wife, Christina Fu, and their two young children, Aaron (age 7) and Anita (age 10) – are all members of All Saints Parish. Since Dr. Yang's disappearance on April 26<sup>th</sup>, no formal charges have been brought against him, and his family has been denied any contact with or information about him. We assume that he was detained on the grounds of carrying a false passport, but it must be noted that he has, for all practical purposes, disappeared. His family and friends are deeply concerned for his well-being and safety.

Over the past five months, we have worked hard with members of Congress on Dr. Yang's behalf. In the enclosed documents you will find letters to Secretary of State Powell from the entire Massachusetts Congressional delegation, in addition to numerous letters of support from Harvard faculty members and one from Archbishop Emeritus Desmond M. Tutu. Last May, Archbishop Tutu graciously agreed to meet privately with Christina during his visit to All Saints Parish, and he offered her spiritual support that has sustained her greatly in these difficult days.


We are writing to ask your support for Dr. Yang Jianli. The next two weeks are critical. President Bush will be meeting President Jiang Zemin at the Bush ranch on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. We believe that Dr. Yang Jianli's case will be discussed at that time. We would be very grateful if you would write a letter on his behalf to President Bush and/or Secretary of State Colin Powell. Likewise, we would be grateful if you could convey the urgency of the situation to Presiding Bishop Frank T. Griswold, and solicit his support in writing a letter. Another opportunity for intervention is through President Lawrence Summers of Harvard University. Harvard has numerous programs and exchanges with the Chinese government and universities. Dr. Yang's case is significant in terms of human rights and intellectual freedom. We would be grateful if you would urge Mr. Summers to convey the importance of Dr. Yang's case to the Chinese authorities when possible.

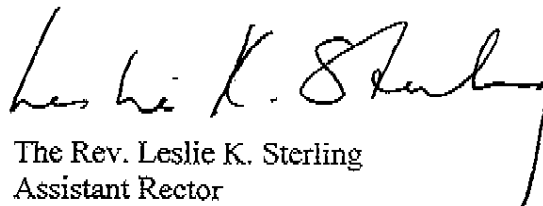
In this season of stewardship, we reflect on the treasures we have within our communities. Dr. Yang Jianli is one of our treasures. He embodies so much of what we value most as Christians. He is a peacemaker and a strong witness to a vision of justice and love that comes from a Christ-filled life. We hope you will consider his case and join us to do whatever you can to help secure his freedom and safety.

Faithfully yours,

  
The Rev. David A. Killian  
Rector

  
Julie Seavy  
Director of Religious Education

  
The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas  
Associate Rector

  
The Rev. Leslie K. Sterling  
Assistant Rector