

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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Ambassador Yang Jiechi
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
2300 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I am writing as President of Harvard University on behalf of our community to express concern about the detention of one of our alumni, Dr. Jian-Li Yang, in the People's Republic of China. Dr. Yang's wife, Christina Fu, is also an employee of Harvard Medical School. According to reports I have received, Dr. Yang was detained in Kunming on April 26 as he was concluding a ten-day visit to China and has remained in custody since that time.

Dr. Yang is an accomplished scholar and a long-time United States resident. He received a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University in 1997 and a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1991. Since receiving his degrees, he has made important contributions to both fields.

Mrs. Fu has informed me that her brother-in-law was notified by the local police that Dr. Yang was officially arrested on June 2, and that he is now in custody at the Qin Cheng Detention Center in Beijing. Nevertheless, his family has not received written notification of his arrest and Dr. Yang has not been granted access to legal counsel, both of which I'm told are provided for under the Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China. His family in the United States, including his wife, children, sisters and elderly parents remain deeply concerned about his well-being as they have been unable to communicate with him since his detention.

As you know, Harvard University has enjoyed deep and long-standing ties with the People's Republic of China. Many of your citizens, including Dr. Yang, have graduated from Harvard University. In addition, Harvard has numerous ongoing programs and exchanges with Chinese universities and your government. President Jiang visited our campus in 1997 and I was pleased to lead a large faculty delegation to Beijing this past May.

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It is in this spirit of cooperation that we ask your government as a humanitarian gesture, in anticipation of President Jiang's upcoming visit to the United States, to expedite the handling of Dr. Yang's case, and, if appropriate, move expeditiously to expel him from the People's Republic of China so he can return home to his family.

With warm regards,



Lawrence Summers