

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2002

The Honorable Lorne W. Craner
Assistant Secretary
Department of State
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor
2201 C Street, NW Suite 7802
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Craner:

We write to you with regard to your role representing the United States in next week's round of the China Human Rights Dialogue taking place in Beijing. We know you are aware of the case of Dr. Yang Jianli, the internationally renowned scholar and democracy activist who has been held incommunicado in China since April. We understand that you pressed for Dr. Yang's release in high-level meetings with Chinese officials several months ago, and we also understand that you are meeting with Dr. Yang's wife, Christina Fu, this week.

We are grateful for the serious attention you are giving this matter, and we urge you to continue to discuss Dr. Yang's case with Chinese officials in next week's human rights talks. We believe that Dr. Yang's case deserves continued, specific, and strong support from the U.S. government not only because his detention is an affront to American values and standards, but also because it contradicts standards the government of China itself professes to uphold. As you know, the government of China invoked the force of Chinese law to initially detain Dr. Yang. Yet, at the same time it ignored its laws – and continues to do so – with regard to supposedly guaranteed rights of official family notification, access to legal counsel, and other standards of fair treatment.

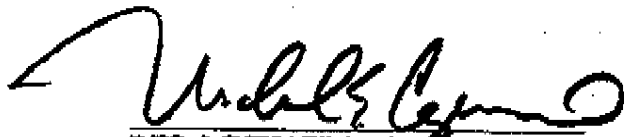
Dr. Yang's case raises serious questions about China's commitment to the rule of law and the humane treatment of its citizens. We believe the United States should continue to press these questions to the government of China at every opportunity. Please do all you can to impress upon your Chinese counterparts the importance, both real and symbolic, this case holds for the United States.



REP. BARNEY FRANK



REP. CHRISTOPHER COX



REP. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO



REP. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH