



## FREEDOM NOW

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 20, 2004**

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### **MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO CALL FOR YANG JIANLI'S RELEASE** **Recent Severe Mistreatment in Prison Prompts Action**

**What:** Members of Congress will commemorate the two-year anniversary of Yang Jianli's detention, describe his recent physical abuse by the Chinese authorities, and call for his release.

**When: Monday, April 26, 2004, 2:00-3:00 p.m.**

**Where: 2220 Rayburn House Office Building**

**Who: Rep. Christopher Cox (R-CA)**  
**Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA)**  
**Christina Fu, Wife of Yang Jianli**  
**Jared Genser, President, Freedom Now & Legal Advisor to Yang's Family**

**Why:** Dr. Yang, a legal permanent resident of the United States, is the co-founder of the Foundation for China in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and a resident of Brookline, Mass. A veteran of Tiananmen Square student movement in 1989, he returned to China two years ago to visit political activists and laid-off workers and was detained by police at an airport in Kunming on April 26, 2002. He was held in solitary confinement for more than 14 months, denied access to his family and lawyer, reading material and outdoor activity and was interrogated more than 100 times.

Dr. Yang was put on trial in China for espionage on August 4, 2003, but a verdict has yet to be issued, in violation of Chinese law. Congressional resolutions calling for his release passed unanimously:

- **S.Res.184** (July 29, 2003, under unanimous consent)
- **H.Res.199** (June 25, 2003, on a vote of 412-0)

In addition, U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found that Dr. Yang was being held in violation of international law, in a decision issued on June 4, 2003.

Over the last month, in response to Dr. Yang refusing to fold his blanket, wear a prison-issue uniform, and respond to orders when addressed by his numerical code, prison authorities kept him handcuffed for one week in solitary confinement, denied him all access to reading materials and exercise, and also denied him access to his lawyer. When Dr. Yang was removed from solitary confinement, he remained handcuffed until his wrists began to bleed.

Dr. Yang Jianli's wife Christina Fu said: "We were shocked and horrified to learn how the Chinese Government treated my husband. My family is deeply concerned about his welfare and urges the U.S. Government to renew its call for Jianli's release." The couple has two young children.

For more information about Dr. Yang, please visit [www.freedom-now.org](http://www.freedom-now.org) or [www.supportjianli.org](http://www.supportjianli.org).

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