

Wu Aiying

Minister of Justice

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Chaoyang District

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Dear Minister Wu Aiying,

I am writing to express my grave concern regarding the continued imprisonment of seriously ill labor activist Yao Fuxin, who was convicted of subversion and sentenced to seven years in prison on May 9, 2003. Yao Fuxin is guilty of nothing more than leading a series of peaceful demonstrations, an activity that is protected under international and Chinese domestic law.

The subversion charge against Yao Fuxin, who merely attempted to exercise his rights to freedom of expression and association, is completely groundless. The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention determined after investigation that Yao's detention is arbitrary.

Yao Fuxin reportedly suffers from chronic heart disease and high blood pressure. He has been denied proper medical attention while in prison. Despite repeated requests by his family, he has been repeatedly denied medical parole. Yao's health and well-being have steadily deteriorated during his years in prison.

I therefore urge you to order the immediate and unconditional release of Yao Fuxin or, failing that, his immediate release on medical parole, in accordance with PRC Criminal Procedure Law and relevant associated regulations, so that he may receive necessary medical attention and treatment as a matter of urgency.

Sincerely,