

Head of Deshan Prison

Zhangmuqiao, Wulingqu, Changdeshi 415400, Hunan
People's Republic of China

Dear Prison Director,

I am writing to express my grave concern regarding the imprisonment of journalist Shi Tao who was convicted of illegally providing state secrets overseas on April 27, 2005, and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. Shi Tao is currently detained at your prison and is reportedly in poor health as a result of forced labor activities at Chishan Prison, prior to his transfer.

Shi Tao was convicted following a trial that violated international due process standards. His detention results from the legitimate exercise of Shi's right to freedom of expression. It also has broader implications for the independence of the media. I believe, therefore, that Shi Tao and others imprisoned for their legitimate exercise of their freedom of expression should be released.

I urge you to ensure that Shi Tao is given immediate and appropriate medical treatment for his deteriorating health, and that he and all others in your facility are treated in a humane manner consistent with the PRC Prison Law and numerous international standards.

Sincerely,