

TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead protesting the detention of Yan Zhengxue.

2 March 2007

His Excellency Hu Jintao
President of the People's Republic of China
State Council
Beijing 100032
P.R. China

Excellency,

I wish to add my name to this appeal from PEN Canada, the Canadian centre of the international writers' organization, International PEN. PEN Canada is writing to protest the detention of writer **Yan Zhengxue**.

According to our information, writer and painter Yan Zhengxue was arrested on 18 October 2006 after police raided his home in Jiaojiang, Zhejiang Province. They also reportedly raided his wife's home in Beijing, and took away computer equipment from both residences. On 1 November, Yan was officially charged with subversion, apparently in connection with his writings and dissident activities. He is held incommunicado at Luqiao Detention Centre, Taizhou City, Zhejiang Province, without access to family visits.

Yan Zhengxue, aged 62, is a well-known artist and author of several books. His paintings have been exhibited both in China and abroad. He has been briefly detained on numerous occasions for his dissident activities, and was administratively sentenced to two years' re-education through labour in April 1994. He is also known for bringing a lawsuit against the authorities after being tortured in custody on 2 July 1993, by three policemen at the Haidian district police station in Beijing.

International PEN calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Yan Zhengxue, in accordance with Article 19 of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which China is a signatory, and seeks immediate assurances that while detained he be treated humanely, receive regular family visits and have access to lawyers and any necessary medical care.

Sincerely,

[Your name and address]

Copies to:

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Also c/o:

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Please send copies of your appeal to the following Canadian authorities:

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