

**RAN #47 December 21, 2007 CHINA**

**Please note:** this is the final RAN for 2007. Appeals will resume the week of January 7, 2008. Warm thanks to everyone for supporting imprisoned writers by being a part of this network.

**CHINA: Health of imprisoned writer Zhang Jianhong rapidly deteriorating.**

**BACKGROUND: Prominent writer Zhang Jianhong (aka Li Hong), one of the cases in the 40:242 China Campaign, is in extremely poor health and serving a six-year sentence.** He is known for dissident activities and prolific writings. He was arrested in September 2006 and convicted of "subversion" on 19 March 2007 for "defaming the Chinese government" and "inciting subversion" in articles posted online between May and September 2006. Zhang was previously imprisoned from 1989-1991 for pro-democracy activities. In May 2007 he was diagnosed with a form of muscular dystrophy, but did not receive treatment until 20 October 2007, when he was transferred from Qiaosi Prison to the Zhejiang Prison General Hospital. His condition is said to have worsened considerably as a result of prolonged lack of medical care. Repeated applications for medical parole have not been considered.

**Please note: there are no fax numbers for Chinese authorities. We recommend that you mail your letter to the President of China in P.R. China, and send your appeal to the Chinese embassy in Ottawa asking them to forward it to other authorities in China and welcoming any comments.**

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

Excellency:

As a member of PEN Canada, I once again join writers from the community of International PEN, the worldwide association of writers, in urging you to release 40 of our colleagues who are in prison in your country in violation of their right to freedom of expression.

In particular at this time, I draw your attention to the extremely poor health of the writer Zhang Jianhong, currently serving a six-year sentence in the Zhejiang Prison General Hospital.

International PEN is calling for the immediate and unconditional release of writer Zhang Jianhong in accordance with Article 19 of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which China is a signatory, and on humanitarian grounds.

We have serious concerns for Zhang Jianhong's deteriorating health and we urge you to ensure that he receive all necessary medical treatment pending his release.

In addition, in order that our colleagues are not simply replaced by others and that writers and journalist are not imprisoned in violation of their right to freedom of expression in the future, we respectfully request that the Chinese government:

- Abide by its pledge that "there will be no restrictions on media reporting and movement of journalists up to and including the Olympic Games";
- End internet censorship and reform laws that are used to suppress the free exchange of information and ideas on the internet.

The continuing detention of writers and journalists damages China's image abroad and undercuts its ambitions to develop a dynamic and competitive economy and culture. China's citizens are ready to exercise the rights they are guaranteed under their constitution and under international law, including the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. With all eyes on China this year, we look forward to the good news that all of our colleagues have been released.

Sincerely,

[your signature and name and address]

**Copies (care of the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa) to:**

Procurator General Mr. Jia Chunwang

Supreme People's Procuratorate

Beiheyuan Street 147  
100726 Beijing  
P.R.China

Governor of the Zhejiang Provincial People's Government

LU Zushan  
Zhejiangsheng Renmin Zhengfu  
9 Shengfulu  
Hangzhoushi 310007  
P.R.China.

Chief of the Zhejiang Provincial Prison Management Bureau

GE Bingyao  
Zhejiangsheng Jianyu Guanliju  
110 Tianmushanlu  
Hangzhoushi  
P.R.China

President of the Zhejiang Provincial High People's Court

YING Yong  
Zhejiangsheng Gaoji Renmin Fayuan  
5 Machenglu  
Hangzhoushi 310012  
P.R.China.

H.E. Lu Shumin  
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Canada

Huang Huikang  
Political Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission  
Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China  
515 St. Patrick Street, Ottawa, Ont. K1N 5H3  
Fax: (613) 789-1911  
E-mail Address: [chinaemb\\_ca@mfa.gov.cn](mailto:chinaemb_ca@mfa.gov.cn)

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

Robert Sinclair  
Deputy Director, Human Rights Division  
Foreign Affairs Canada  
Email: [robert.sinclair@international.gc.ca](mailto:robert.sinclair@international.gc.ca)

Robert Wright  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Canada  
19 Dongzhimenwai Dajie  
Chao Yang District  
Beijing 100600 PRC  
Email: [beijing-pa@international.gc.ca](mailto:beijing-pa@international.gc.ca)  
Fax: (011 86 10) 6532-5033

Toby Schwartz  
Desk Officer, China  
Foreign Affairs Canada

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