

**TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead demanding the release from prison of writer Zheng Yichun.**

August 18, 2006

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 call for the release of writer **Zheng Yichun**.

Poet, professor and freelance journalist Zheng Yichun was convicted by the Yingkou Intermediate People's Court, Liaonin Province, northern China, on July 21, 2005, and sentenced on September 20 to seven years in prison for "incitement to subversion of state power" for his critical writings, many of which were posted on-line on overseas Web sites. Zheng had his seven-year prison sentence upheld on appeal on December 22, 2005.

Zheng, aged 48 and a member of China's Korean minority, was arrested on December 3, 2004, and charged in connection with sixty-three articles he had written for foreign-based publications and Web sites. His family was reportedly threatened with reprisals if they contacted international press or human rights organizations about his arrest.

Zheng is a diabetic. He has been reportedly beaten by other prisoners. There are serious concerns for his health and well-being.

**PEN Canada protests the detention of Zheng Yichun and calls for his immediate and unconditional release in accordance with Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We are seriously concerned about reports that he is denied medical treatment for diabetes in prison, and demand that he be given immediate medical attention. We also seek assurances that he is being treated humanely in detention.**

Sincerely,

[Your name and address]

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Copies to:

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Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China  
The State Council  
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Ms. Wu Aiying  
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Procurator General Mr. Jia Chunwang  
Supreme People's Procuratorate  
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100726 Beijing  
People's Republic of China

Also c/o:

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Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations  
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Fax: +1 212 634 7626  
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Please send copies of your appeal to the following Canadian authorities:

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Minister of Foreign Affairs  
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125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa ON K1A 0G2  
Fax: (613) 996 3443  
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Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister  
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