

TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead protesting the prison sentence handed down against Guo Qizhen.

October 27, 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 protest the prison sentence handed down to **Guo Qizhen**.

According to our information, Internet writer Guo Qizhen received a four-year prison sentence on 16 October 2006, on charges of subversion. Guo has reportedly been held since 12 May for his critical writings and pro-democracy activities. He was arrested at his home on that day, and charged with "inciting subversion of state power" on 8 June.

Guo's arrest appears to be linked to his participation in a rotating hunger strike that has been taking place by pro-democracy activists since 4 February 2006, to protest against human rights violations in China. The charges are believed to be based on his anti-government articles published online on overseas Web sites.

Guo is currently held at Cangzhou detention centre No.2 in Hebei Province, central China. He was reported to be in a fragile psychological state and suffering from a broken leg, for reasons that remain unclear. The detention centre where he is held is said to lack the medical facilities required to give him adequate treatment.

PEN Canada protests the detention of Guo Qizhen and calls for his immediate and unconditional release in accordance with Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which China became a signatory in 1998. We express serious concerns about his health and urge that, while detained, his basic rights be respected and that he be granted full access to his family and all necessary medical care.

Sincerely,

[Your name and address]

Copies to:

Wen Jiabao Guojia Zongli
Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China
The State Council
9 Xihuangcheng Genbeijie
Beijingshi 100032
People's Republic of China
Fax: +011 86 10 6596 1109

Ms. Wu Aiying
Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China
10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie

Chaoyang District
Beijing 100020
People's Republic of China
Fax: +011 86 10 6467 7351 / 6839 3014 / 6529 2345
E-mail: minister@legalinfo.gov.cn

Procurator General Mr. Jia Chunwang
Supreme People's Procuratorate
Beiheyuan Street 147
100726 Beijing
People's Republic of China

Also c/o:

Embassy of the People's Republic of China
515 St. Patrick Street
Ottawa ON K1N 5H3
Fax: +1 613 789 1911 / 789 1414

Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations
New York City, New York
Fax: +1 212 634 7626
E-mail: chinamission_un@mfa.gov.cn

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

The Hon. Peter MacKay
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Lester B. Pearson Building, Room A-10
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0G2
Fax: (613) 996 3443
E-mail: peter.mackay@international.gc.ca

Jason Kenney
Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister
433-C Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Fax: (613) 992-1920
E-mail: kennej@parl.gc.ca

Canadian Embassy
19 Dongzhimenwai Dajie
Chao Yang District
Beijing 100600 PRC
Fax: +011 86 10 6532 1684
E-mail: beijing-immigration@international.gc.ca, Beijing-pa@international.gc.ca

Peter Harder
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: peter.harder@international.gc.ca

Alison LeClaire Christie
Director, East Asia Division I
Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: alison.leclairechristie@international.gc.ca

Nadia Burger
Deputy Director, East Asia Division I
Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: nadia.burger@international.gc.ca

Christina Komorski
Political Officer, East Asia Division I
Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: christina.komorski@international.gc.ca

Toby Schwartz
Desk Officer, China
Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: toby.schwartz@international.gc.ca

Gwyn Kutz
Director, Human Rights Division
Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: gwyn.kutz@international.gc.ca