

**TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead demanding the immediate and unconditional release of cyber-writer Li Zhi.**

September 29, 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 **Li Zhi**.

The Internet writer and financial official in the Dazhou municipal government, Sichuan Province, was arrested on August 8, 2003, by Sichuan Province State Security Police after posting an essay on an overseas Web site that accused Sichuan officials of corruption. Police seized his computer. Li was officially charged on September 3 with "conspiracy to subvert state power" for having contact with foreign-based dissidents. The Dazhou Intermediate People's Court sentenced Li to eight years in prison on December 11.

PEN Canada believes that the action against Li is part of a broader government crackdown that shows official intolerance of online freedom of expression. Government surveillance of e-mail messages and discussion forums to track down regime dissidents is routinely practised. Some 30 cyber-dissidents are said to be in prison throughout the country for expressing their opinions.

**PEN Canada deplores the persecution of individuals seeking to express their views peacefully over the Internet. We believe that Li Zhi has been jailed in violation of his right to freedom of expression, as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We call for his immediate and unconditional release.**

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  
Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China  
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People's Republic of China

Fax: +011 86 10 6467 7351 / 6839 3014 / 6529 2345  
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Procurator General Mr. Jia Chunwang  
Supreme People's Procuratorate  
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People's Republic of China

Also c/o:

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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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