

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138



October 7, 2004

President Hu Jintao  
c/o Embassy of the People's Republic of China  
2300 Connecticut Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear President Hu:

We are writing as faculty of Harvard University to bring to your attention again to the case of Dr. Yang Jianli, one of our graduates and a legal permanent resident of the United States. Dr. Yang has been detained in China since April 26, 2002. On behalf of his wife, who is an employee of Harvard Medical School and their two young children Aaron and Anita, we write to convey our strong hope that your Government will respond favorably to a petition to grant him parole. He will be eligible for parole according to the laws of China on October 26, 2004.

Dr. Yang is an accomplished scholar who lives in Brookline, Massachusetts. In addition to having received his Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University, he was involved in ongoing research with our faculty, focusing on formal models of voting systems and efficient mechanisms for income transfer.

Last December, we were pleased to be able to welcome Premier Wen Jiabao to our campus for a mutual exchange of views. It was a very productive and engaging conversation. At that time, over 100 Harvard faculty wrote to Premier Wen to express their concerns about Dr. Yang's detention.

We were subsequently disappointed by the verdict in his case a number of months later because we do not believe that it accurately reflects Dr. Yang's intentions, motives or character. And we were troubled by his sentence because we hoped your justice system would exhibit a humanitarian impulse that would permit Yang Jianli to be immediately reunited with his family after already having spent considerable time in jail prior to trial.

Harvard University enjoys deep, longstanding, and important ties with the People's Republic of China, and would hope to expand those ties in the future. Many of our most promising students have come from China. None of us want Dr. Yang's ongoing detention to interfere with our strong partnership. It is with this in mind, we hope that Yang Jianli's parole will be granted when he becomes eligible this month. We believe a decision to grant Yang Jianli parole would both show a commitment to justice within your country's legal system, and help to strengthen the bilateral ties between China and the United States.

Thank you for taking the time to address this important matter.

Respectfully,

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