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MEDIA RELEASE

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36 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS URGE PRESIDENT BUSH TO RAISE DR. YANG JIANLI'S CASE IN HIS MEETING WITH CHINESE PRESIDENT HU JINTAO

Supporters Also Learn Dr. Yang Jianli Was Tortured in Prison

Today, 36 Members of Congress, led by Congressmen Barney Frank (D-MA) and Christopher Cox (R-CA) urged President Bush to raise Dr. Yang Jianli's case in his upcoming meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao:

[W]e fear at this point that without your direct intercession, and the great political and moral strength you can bring to this case, Dr. Yang will continue to suffer for nothing more than his love of democracy . . . We urge you in the strongest possible terms to appeal to President Hu Jintao to bring this case to resolution.

In addition, it was recently learned that Chinese authorities, while insisting to the U.S. government and international community that Dr. Yang was being well treated, tortured Dr. Yang. "During the first year of his detention, Dr. Yang Jianli was not only held *incommunicado* and in solitary confinement, but we just learned he was not allowed to exercise outside his cell, was denied access to *all* reading materials, and was interrogated by PRC authorities over 100 times. Collectively, this treatment qualifies as torture under international law," said Jared Genser, a legal advisor to Dr. Yang and his family.

Dr. Yang was put on trial in China on August 4, 2003, in the Beijing No. 2 Intermediate People's Court but a verdict has yet to be issued. Congressional resolutions calling for the release of Dr. Yang Jianli passed unanimously. S.Res. 184 was adopted on July 29, 2003, after being co-sponsored by Sens. Jon Kyl (R-AZ), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Sam Brownback (R-KS), and John McCain (R-AZ), among others. Before that, H.Res. 199 passed in a roll call vote of 412-0 on June 25, 2003, after being co-sponsored by over 50 Members of Congress. In addition, on June 4, 2003, the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, consisting of representatives of Algeria, France, Hungary, Iran, and Paraguay found that Dr. Yang was being held in violation of international law.

Dr. Yang is an alumnus of the University of California at Berkeley and Harvard University, and he is the President of the Foundation for China in the 21st Century, an organization dedicated to promoting the establishment of a democratic China. A participant in the Tiananmen Square uprising of 1989, he has been put on a Chinese blacklist of dissidents, and the Chinese government has repeatedly refused to renew his passport.

For more information about Dr. Yang, please go to www.freedom-now.org or www.supportjianli.org.

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