

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2004

His Excellency Hu Jintao
People's Republic of China
Beijing
China

Dear President Hu,

We write to express our serious concern over the continued imprisonment of Yang Jianli and to express in particular our outrage over recent information we have received concerning inhumane treatment of Dr. Yang because of his failure to comply with some detention center rules.

We have been told that because Dr. Yang refused to fold his blanket, wear a prison-issue uniform, and respond to orders when addressed by his numerical code, prison authorities kept him handcuffed for one week in solitary confinement, denied him all access to reading materials and exercise, and denied him access to his lawyer. We understand that when Dr. Yang was removed from solitary confinement, he remained handcuffed until his wrists began to bleed.

We understand that your government recently expressed hope that our differences on human rights could be resolved through dialogue and consultation. Our government has, in fact, engaged in a great deal of serious dialogue on this matter, but your government's responses - in those instances in which there has been any response at all - have been disappointing. Moreover, the recent brutal treatment of Dr. Yang, whom your government has kept detained now for two full years, is, in our view, indefensible.

Despite numerous congressional letters to your government during the past two years, as well as personal communication from individual members of Congress and direct appeals from high-ranking officials within our government, Dr. Yang remains in prison with no indication of hope whatsoever given for his future. This seems to us an extraordinarily inhumane act unworthy of a great nation.

We note that in June 2003, the National People's Congress resolved to put an end to the "chronic disease" of illegally prolonged detention, and last month, your government issued a *White Paper on Human Rights* touting the success of this new "strict system for investigating and dealing with extended detention." And yet an official Petition to the National People's Congress submitted by Yang Jianli's family last month was summarily ignored, and Dr. Yang remains in prison, despite the views of numerous Chinese legal scholars that his ongoing detention is a clear violation of Chinese law. At this point, Yang Jianli has been held for almost eight months past the conclusion of his trial, in violation of the prescribed time period for the issuance of a verdict.

Any deterrent effect that your government sought to obtain has clearly long since been achieved by your government's treatment of Dr. Yang, including his initial solitary confinement for over a year, without access to his family or legal counsel, as well as the continued delay of any decision in his trial.

We strongly object to your government's severely harsh treatment of Yang Jianli. The great pain and anguish that this is causing his family, and wife and two young children, will make it increasingly difficult for us to focus on the many other important aspects of our bilateral relationship.


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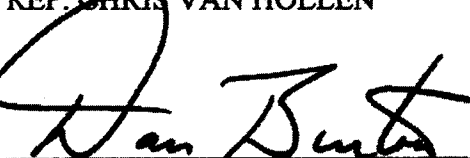

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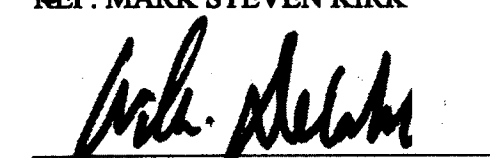

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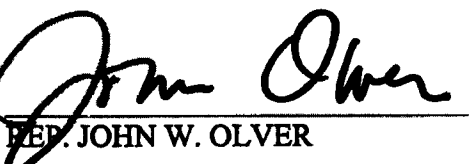

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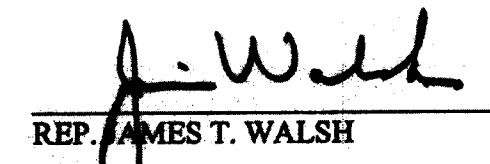

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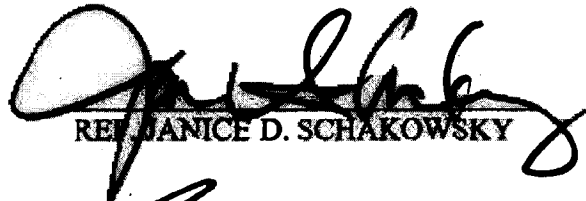

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