Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

President Barack Obama

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

This letter is written to bring to your attention the situation of Dr. Wang Bingzhang, a prisoner of conscience currently being held in Beijiang Prison in Shaoguan, Guangdong Province.

Dr. Wang is a United States permanent resident who is serving a life sentence for his involvement in Chinese pro-democracy activism, as he is one of the founders of the Chinese democracy movement. While meeting with labor activists in Vietnam in June, 2002, he was kidnapped and forced back into China, where he was taken into custody by Chinese police. Due to his work, he was charged with espionage and terrorism – charges we believe to be unfounded. It is worrisome that he has been held despite the fact that his detention has been declared arbitrary by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

The Chinese government has yet to provide adequate evidence on which to base his conviction, which resulted from a closed trial that lasted only half a day. As such, it is believed that he was convicted merely for expressing his political opinion, a right afforded by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights which guarantees freedom of speech and association, to which China is a signatory.

There have been numerous efforts made on his behalf, including H.Con.Res. 326 in the 108th Congress, various letters from Representatives and Senators, and resolutions from foreign governments.

The urgency to have him released has compounded. Due to his detention and isolation, his health has deteriorated. He has developed several health problems and has suffered several strokes. We sincerely hope that you may assist us in our efforts to have him released by the government of the People's Republic of China on humanitarian grounds so that he may be reunited with his family and can be properly cared for.

Mr. President, you have an upcoming meeting with President Xi Jinping, and we urge you to specifically ask for the release of Dr. Wang Bingzhang during your discussions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Members of Congress

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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