



PETITION

FREEDOM FROM CENSORSHIP! FREE HUANG JINQIU

Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China
WU Aiyong Buzhang
Sifabu
10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Chaoyangqu
Beijingshi 100020
People's Republic of China

Dear Minister,

We, the undersigned, are deeply concerned for the safety of Huang Jinqiu who is serving a 12-year sentence in Pukou prison, Jiangsu province, for "subversion" in connection with his "reactionary" online writings. The pervasive system of internet censorship in China contravenes guarantees of freedom of expression embodied in international human rights standards and the Chinese Constitution. We consider Huang Jinqiu to be a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned for solely exercising his rights to freedom of expression and association. We urge you to secure his immediate and unconditional release.

It appears that Huang Jinqiu's conditions of detention have improved since 2006 and that he is now allowed to keep a radio and write a prison newsletter. However, we remain concerned over reports that he has been subjected to torture or other ill-treatment in police custody and in prison. We urge you to conduct a full and impartial investigation into these allegations with a view to bringing those responsible to justice. We call upon you to ensure that he is not subjected to further torture and other ill-treatment while he remains in prison.

The ongoing imprisonment of Huang Jinqiu and others for legitimate use of the internet runs counter to commitments made by numerous Chinese officials that human rights would improve in the run-up to the Olympics and that there would be "complete media freedom" in China for the Games. Such abuses also contravene fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter relating to the preservation of human dignity and respect for universal, fundamental, ethical principles. We urge your administration to address such abuses with a view to ensuring a positive human rights legacy for the Olympic Games in August 2008.

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