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WU ZHENJIANG'S STORY

Wu Zhenjiang, a 24-year-old student from Kuitun city, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, was executed in January 2005 in Xi'an city, Shaanxi province, for killing a man in a brawl outside an internet café. The brawl apparently developed after he refused entry to a group of men who did not want to pay to use the computers. Wu Zhenjiang had secured a part-time job at the café to fund his studies and send money home to his family.

Wu Zhenjiang's family say they were never allowed to meet with him after his first instance trial and that they were never given his body to bury. His mother is reportedly concerned that his organs were taken from his body without consent for transplantation purposes, and has regularly petitioned the authorities for further information without success.

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Dear Minister,

I support Wu Zhenjiang's family in their continuing struggle to obtain more information from the authorities on his case, in particular what happened to his body, which was cremated shortly after his execution and never returned to the family. In line with official commitments that human rights would improve in the run-up to the Beijing Olympics and with a view to promoting a positive human rights legacy for the Games, I urge you to bring about greater transparency in administration of the death penalty, both by ensuring that families and lawyers of those sentenced to death are given access to them as well as administrative and procedural information about their cases. Abolition of the death penalty in China would be a major contribution towards the preservation of human dignity and respect of universal fundamental ethical principles established in the Olympic Charter.

Sincerely,

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