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His Excellency Hu Jintao, President  
 The People's Republic of China  
 Beijing, China

Via: Chinese Ambassador Yang Jiechi (chinaembassy\_us@fmprc.gov.cn)

Dear President Hu,

On this, the second anniversary of Dr. Yang Jianli's detention on April 26, 2002 in Kunming, China, I am writing again as a member of the Harvard faculty to reiterate my deep concern regarding his case. Dr. Yang received his doctorate from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in 2000 and is highly regarded as a scholar and a great humanitarian.

Several months ago on the occasion of Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to our campus, I signed a letter endorsed by over 100 faculty at Harvard University expressing concern about Dr. Yang's plight. Ambassador Yang replied that China is a country "ruled by law" and that Dr. Yang's case is being handled "in accordance with law."

Specifically Article 168(1) of the Chinese Criminal Procedure Law requires that a verdict be issued within two-and-one-half months of a trial. However, Dr. Yang has been held now *for almost eight months beyond the date of his trial* on August 4, 2003. Because he is being detained in violation of this Chinese law, my Harvard colleagues and I are urgently requesting that he be released immediately to return to his family in the United States.

Dr. Yang's wife, Christina Fu, works at Harvard Medical School and is a valued member of our community. They have two young children, Aaron, age 8, and Anita, 11, and, as you must understand, Dr. Yang's detention is a cause of continual pain and suffering for his family. In Premier Wen's speech at Harvard last December, he told us, "A deeper mutual understanding is a two-way process." In that spirit, we wish to state that we firmly believe that Dr. Yang's continued detention – including solitary confinement, without access to his family or legal counsel – has been more than sufficient punishment.

I sincerely hope that you will take the time to understand our plea, as well as the implications and importance of Dr. Yang's immediate release not only for the Harvard community but also for the greater cause of peaceful cooperation between China and the United States.

Sincerely,

John Z. Ayanian, M.D., M.P.P.