

Dear Director,

I am writing this letter to express my grave concern for the human rights defender, Zhen Jianghua, who has been detained since 2 September 2017 without access to his lawyer or family. The national security officer-in-charge of his case informed his lawyer that Zhen Jianghua had been placed under residential surveillance in a designated location but did not specify where he is currently detained.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Zhen Jianghua who is a prisoner of conscience and drop all charges as he has been detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression.

Pending his release, I also urge you to ensure that Zhen Jianghua is protected from torture and other ill-treatment while in detention, and that he is allowed, without delay, effective access to his family, and lawyer of his choice.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely yours,