

I am writing this to express my grave concern on Xu Youchen who is facing imminent execution after the Henan Provincial Higher People's Court rejected his appeal and upheld his conviction and death sentence. The Supreme People's Court will review the case and if it approves the lower court's decision he will be executed. In his appeal, Xu Youchen has testified to being tortured to "confess" to the crime.

I should ask you to immediately halt plans to carry out Xu Youchen's execution. Please grant Xu Youchen a retrial in proceedings that fully comply with international standards for a fair trial and without recourse to the death penalty and ensure that Xu Youchen is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment.

In addition, you should be asked to immediately establish a moratorium on all executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, in line with six UN General Assembly resolution adopted since 2007, and commute all existing death sentences.

Sincerely,