

Director Yin Zhaoming

Xuzhou City Detention Centre
206 Guodaodongze,
Sanbao Zhen Nan, Tongshan Qu
Xuzhou Shi, Jiangsu Sheng, 221112
People's Republic of China

Dear Director Yin:

I am writing to express my concern for **Yu Wensheng** (余文生), who is currently detained in your facility for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression. While it is promising that Yu was able to meet with his lawyer on 14 August after more than 18 months in detention, it is alarming to learn of the conditions that he has experienced in Xuzhou City Detention Centre.

Yu Wensheng told his lawyer that, during his detention, he had been sprayed with pepper spray water and was at times required to sit on a metal chair for an extended period of time, until he partially lost consciousness. Yu also said that he was often not given enough food and that he suffered heatstroke in the summer and was cold in the winter.

Yu's wife, Xu Yan, has expressed her distress about the sharp deterioration in Yu's health since he has been held incommunicado. In addition to struggling with hypertension, some of Yu's teeth fell out and he was too weak to chew his food. Yu also shared that, due to severe tremors, he was no longer able to write with his right hand. Instead, Yu was forced to write his entire appeal submission with his left hand. According to the doctor in the detention centre, this condition is irreversible.

Yu Wensheng is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression. Not only is Yu unjustly imprisoned, he is also enduring inhumane treatment in your detention centre.

Therefore, pending Yu Wensheng's immediate and unconditional release, I call on you to ensure that he:

- **is treated in full accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and, specifically, is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment, including to poor conditions of detention.**
- **has regular, unrestricted access to a lawyer of his choice and is granted regular and unrestricted access to food and medical care on request or as necessary.**

Yours sincerely,