

I am writing to express my grave concern on Hong Kong citizen Wu Zongxi who is currently under review by the Supreme People's Court for his death penalty sentence. If approved, the authorities will sign an order to carry out his execution, placing him in imminent risk. According to his family, the police told Wu Zongxi that they would sue his family if he did not confess to the offence. While his lawyer reportedly submitted evidence that Wu Zongxi was coerced to "confess", it was not considered a mitigating factor. But International law guarantees the right of defendants not to be compelled to testify against themselves or to confess guilt. Statements elicited as a result of torture, ill-treatment or other forms of coercion must be excluded as evidence in criminal proceedings.

Therefore I should call for halting plans to carry out Wu Zongxi's execution; for ensuring that Wu Zongxi has regular, unrestricted access to family and lawyers of his choice, and is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment; and establishing 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.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,