

Chief Procurator Zhang Yukun

Beijing No. 2 People's Procuratorate
18, Zhifang Lu,
Fengtai Qu,
Beijing Shi, 100078
People's Republic of China
Dear Chief Procurator Zhang:

I am writing to express my concern for Australian-Chinese writer **Yang Hengjun** (杨恒均), who has been detained for more than 24 months without trial. Charged with "espionage", his case was scheduled to go to trial before the Beijing Second Intermediate People's Court in January 2021. However, it has since been delayed by three months. Similar to the charges of espionage, the reasons for the delay of the trial have not been disclosed publicly.

It is further distressing to learn that Yang will face a closed-door trial. As stated in Article 10 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Yang Hengjun was first taken into police custody at Guangzhou airport on 19 January 2019 and was detained at the Beijing State Security Bureau Detention Centre where he was subjected to extensive interrogations and stressful conditions. While it is welcome news that he has now been allowed to occasionally meet with an Australian consular representative and his lawyer, I remain concerned about further delays to his trial process.

It is essential that you ensure that as long as Yang Hengjun remains in detention he is granted regular access to his defence lawyer and consular access in line with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. I fear that without regular access to these, he may be at risk of torture and other ill-treatment while in detention.

I therefore call on you to:

- **Release Yang Hengjun immediately and unconditionally, unless there is sufficient credible and admissible evidence that he has committed an internationally recognized offence and is granted a fair trial in line with international standards;**
- **Pending his release, ensure that Yang Hengjun has regular, unrestricted access to consular visits, is able to meet and communicate with family and lawyers of his choice and is not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment;**
- **Allow him prompt, regular and unrestricted access to medical care on request, or as necessary.**

Yours sincerely,