

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 8, 2011

His Excellency Zhang Yesui  
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United States  
3505 International Place, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Zhang,

Over the past year, the imprisonments, disappearances, and harassment of peaceful advocates for human rights has damaged China's international reputation and U.S.-China bilateral relations. We do not believe those targeted by your government are a threat to China's political stability, but rather they are advocates for the fundamental freedoms found in your Constitution and treaties to which China is a party.

One such individual is Wu Zeheng, a prominent Buddhist leader with millions of followers, students, and supporters in China and abroad. Though his teachings are of peace and developing stronger communities, he spent 11 years in prison for writing a public letter to the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party in 1998 suggesting governmental reforms. Among the reforms advanced were greater government transparency, the rule of law, an end to corruption, and the removal of party officials who do not act in the interest of the people.


For this action, Wu Zeheng was deemed a threat to national security, tried without legal counsel, and mistreated while in prison, including beatings, sleep deprivation, lack of adequate nutrition and medical care, and extended solitary confinement. He paid a great price for peacefully advocating reforms to which your government is now actively and publicly committed.

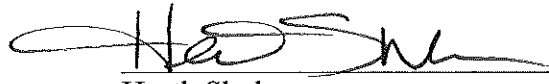
Wu Zeheng was released at the end of his sentence in February 2010; yet, he continues to face harassment, surveillance, intimidation, and restrictions on his rights to movement, speech, and religious freedom. Police have routinely raided his home, detained him, and interfered with people wanting to meet him. The most recent incident occurred on May 9, 2011, when security forces prevented him from taking part in the Buddhist Vesak celebration. Mr. Wu was placed in restraints, severely beaten, and detained for a day, to prevent his activities as a religious leader.

We have heard repeatedly from Chinese leaders about your government's commitment to improving human rights in your country. Yet, the stories of arrests and abuses faced by individuals like Wu Zeheng and many others inhibit and complicate our bilateral cooperation. With regards to Mr. Wu, we ask that your government cease all restrictions and harassment directed at him and that he be provided his passport as the relevant local government office in Jieyang, Huilai had committed in writing would be completed by July 27, 2010.

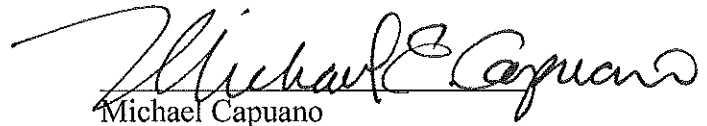
We are eager to continue our discussions with you on these issues, in a spirit of mutual respect and with our two nation's international human rights commitment as a guide.


Sincerely,

  
Trent Franks  
Member of Congress

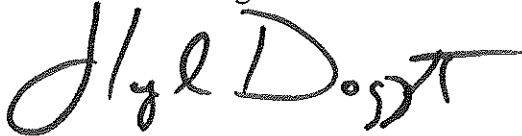
  
Heath Shuler  
Member of Congress

  
Frank Wolf  
Member of Congress


  
Michael Capuano  
Member of Congress

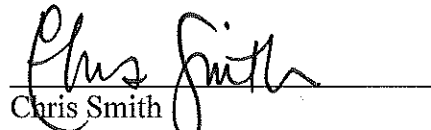
  
Todd Akin  
Member of Congress


  
John Carter  
Member of Congress

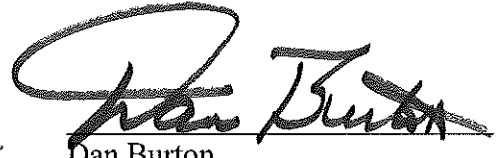
  
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

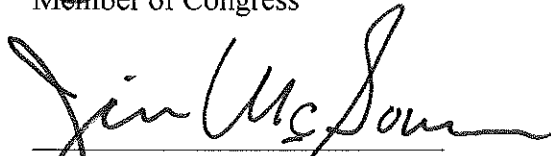
  
Doc Hastings  
Member of Congress

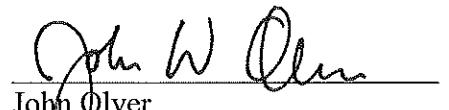
  
Bob Filner  
Member of Congress

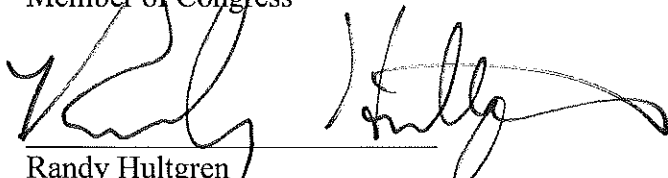
  
Chris Smith  
Member of Congress

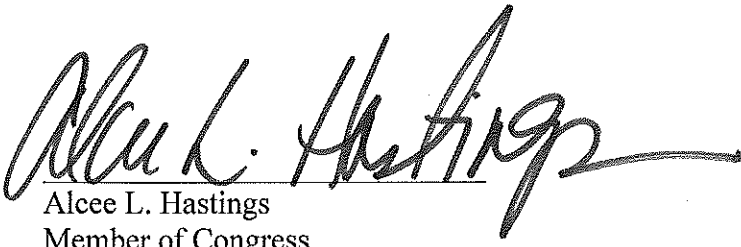
  
Marsha Blackburn  
Member of Congress

  
Dan Burton  
Member of Congress

  
James McGovern  
Member of Congress

  
John Oliver  
Member of Congress

  
Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alcee L. Hastings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress