

Director of the Prison Administration Bureau of Liaoning Province

38 Congshandong Road
Yuhong district
Shenyang 110032
People's Republic of China

Dear Director,

I am writing to express my grave concern regarding the continued imprisonment of seriously ill labor activist Yao Fuxin, who is currently serving seven years in your prison for subversion. I believe that Yao Fuxin's detention results from the legitimate exercise of his right to freedom of expression and association, and that he should therefore be released.

Yao Fuxin is reportedly in poor health and has been denied proper medical attention while at your prison. He lost hearing in his right ear due to an injury sustained when he was first detained in March 2002. He has suffered two heart attacks while in prison and also suffers from high blood pressure. Since October 2003 he has collapsed several times due to his chronic heart trouble.

While serving time in your prison, Yao is reportedly kept under 24-hour surveillance; he is not allowed to talk with other prisoners or go outside. Two prisoners have been assigned to monitor his every movement, even his brief toilet breaks. He is not allowed to read books or newspapers or to write or call his family. Although the prison is without heat, he has been refused padded garments and his family has been prevented from giving him warmer clothes. Yao has also been denied regular contact with his family.

I therefore urge you to ensure that Yao Fuxin is given immediate and appropriate medical treatment for his deteriorating health, and that he and all other prisoners in your facility are treated in a humane manner consistent with the PRC Prison Law and international standards.

Sincerely,